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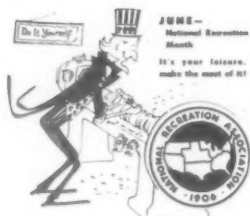
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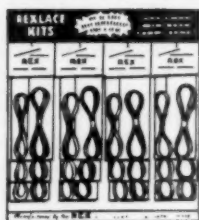
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APRIL 1958



THE MAGAZINE OF THE RECREATION MOVEMENT

Editor in Chief, JOSEPH PRENDERGAST
Editor, DOROTHY DONALDSON
Business Manager, RALPH C. MORRIS

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Recreation Administration, GEORGE BUTLER
Program Activities, VIRGINIA MUSSELMAN

VOL. LI. Price 50 Cents No. 4

On the Cover

Moppets on the Playground. Program leaders, please note: if you look carefully enough you no doubt will find some original activity ideas here! Cover picture courtesy of Standard Romper Company, makers of Health-Tex.

Next Month

May is Senior Citizens Month, and RECREATION will carry several articles about services for this age group. Outstanding among them will be the story of what labor unions are doing to help retired employees enrich their leisure time. One section of the issue will be devoted to information about the construction of swimming pools. In addition, watch for the story about a successful ball program for male adults.

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Recreation*

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APRIL 1958

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Theodore Roosevelt and the Children

Francis W. H. Adams



SOMETIMES the clearest light on the present is shed by a thought from the past. This truth was never more apparent than it is this month. We are celebrating the birthday of the National Recreation Association (founded April 12, 1906) and have just passed the halfway mark in the celebration of the centennial year of Theodore Roosevelt, first honorary president of the Association.

It is, in addition, a happy coincidence that this April issue of RECREATION is devoted to playgrounds. Roosevelt's concern for children was at the heart of his interest in the whole recreation movement.

"It is an excellent thing to have rapid transit but it is a good deal more important, if you look at matters with a proper perspective, to have ample playgrounds." This is TR writing to Jacob Riis in 1894. Thirteen years later, in a message to Cuno H. Rudolph of the Washington Playground Association, Roosevelt declared:

"... since play is a fundamental need, playgrounds should be provided for every child as much as schools. This means that they must be distributed over the cities in such a way as to be within walking distance of every boy and girl. . . ."

Straightforward and vigorous as always, Roosevelt focused attention on the facts of the situation: playgrounds supply something vital to children. Therefore, children should have them—and *enough* of them. An outdated problem? A very pressing problem.

This issue of RECREATION Magazine records the current state of the nation's playgrounds. They have not kept pace with our increasing child population.

Too often the playgrounds we do offer (swings and slides set on blacktop) are just the kinds of places that children (who love to climb trees, dig, sit on cool grass, and play tag in and out of bushes) find downright unattractive. At the same time, the President's Citizens Advisory Committee on the Fitness of American Youth reminds us that our young people need more, not less, active out-of-door play.

Where are they to get it?

The playgrounds of tomorrow must be built first in the hearts and consciences of the grownups of today. We have been startled recently by an apparent lag in the questing American spirit, the inquiring American mind. Yet surely we all know that intellectual and scientific advances are not the merely result of schooling or big budgets. They are first and foremost the result of a habit of thought, a positive delight in experimentation and knowledge seeking.

This pleasure in questioning, this satisfaction in trying it for yourself, this joy in the thing for its own sake, has been the mainspring of our progress. It is also the essence of recreation. Many children in our mechanized society find this joy for the first time in the physical challenge, the imagination-stretching of an inviting playground with a wise leader.

Recreation has always been one of mankind's necessities. In addition, today, as never before, recreation has a positive contribution to make to our nation's physical fitness, mental alertness, and spiritual well-being—our very survival.

The contribution begins in our parks and playgrounds. It continues as long as life lasts.

To sum it up in TR's words:

"The point lies in developing a man who can do something with his strength; who not only has the skill to turn his muscles to advantage, but the heart and head to direct that skill and to direct it well and fearlessly." ★

MR. ADAMS, chairman of the NRA board, former police commissioner of New York City, now a member of City Board of Education, is chairman of the New York City Theodore Roosevelt Centennial Commission.

► OPERATING BUDGETS SHOW AN INCREASE during the last six years, according to the annual report of the National Recreation Association Field Service Department. The majority were extended from ten to twenty-five per cent. Bond issues were passed in ninety-four communities in twenty states and tax levies in twenty communities in nine states.

► A SPLIT DOWN THE CENTER of the Adirondack Forest Preserve is threatened by the Northway route as now proposed. This four-lane, divided highway will damage the State Forest Preserve, according to the Adirondack Mountain Club, which is fighting this issue and recommending an alternate valley route between Glens Falls and Plattsburg. Action is required. If you wish to help, send for the club's brochure from the executive secretary at Gabriels, New York. You can obtain up to ten copies free.

► PAN AMERICAN DAY falls on April 14, and should be an occasion of renewing our knowledge of Pan-American countries, and our friendships with Pan-American people.

► EXTREMELY POPULAR IN CANADA is a publication, *Planning a Recreation Building*,* particularly with recreation commissions. It is published by the Canadian Welfare Council, and if you'd like to see it, write soon, as only a few copies are left.

► COMMUNITY CLOWN CLUBS, did you know August is "National Clown Month"?

► THE FIRST GEORGIA RECREATION COMMISSION has just been created by a senate bill. It was unanimously approved at the Governor's Conference prior to introducing the bill. The National Recreation Association was represented, in supporting this bill, by its executive director, Joseph Prendergast, district representative Ralph Van Fleet, and Bill Hay, former NRA state man in the South, now taking the place of Marion Preece as Association representative in the Southern District.

► ASTROSCIENCE—what does it mean? Eight high schools in Indianapolis are offering freshman students a new course on this subject—the study of space, covering rockets, missiles, astronomy, and meteorology.

► ANNOUNCING ORGANIZATION of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Project of the New Jersey, New York, Connecticut Metropolitan Region. This has

* Available from Canadian Welfare Council, 55 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario.

Things You Should Know . .

been accomplished through the efforts of sponsors: Metropolitan Regional Council and Regional Plan Association, with the cooperation of the governors of New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut, the Metropolitan Council of Planning Agencies, park and recreation officials of the region, and the National Recreation Association.

The NRA is represented by board members H. P. Davison, president of J. P. Morgan & Company, and Joseph Prendergast, NRA executive director.

A \$60,000 grant has been received by the Regional Plan Association from the Old Dominion Foundation for staff work by RPA. The contribution of the Metropolitan Regional Council will be active participation in the project by staff members of the member counties and municipalities of the MRC.

► NEW YORK IN THE SPRING is a gay information pamphlet, free to tourists upon request, listing hundreds of activities scheduled in the city. Planning to visit us? If so, write for it. Address New York Convention Bureau, 90 East 42nd Street, New York 17. A separate pamphlet, *Bronx Zoo*, gives all necessary information for an enjoyable visit and can be obtained from the New York Zoological Society, 185th Street and Southern Boulevard, Bronx 60.

► ANOTHER HELPFUL PAMPHLET, *Swimming for the Cerebral Palsied*, can be useful to leaders this summer. Free from United Cerebral Palsy Association, 369 Lexington Avenue, New York 17.

► FORTY-NINE SCHOLARSHIPS totaling \$75,000 will be awarded to the winners of the second annual National Youth Scholarship Contest, sponsored by Johnson and Johnson, surgical dressing manufacturers, in cooperation with the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company. Awards of the contest, which

ends May 5, 1958, will be made on the basis of the best fifty-word essays on the subject "Why a Good Education is Important."

All scholarships will be in the form of paid-up Mutual Benefit policies. Grand Prize is \$10,000 and there are two second prizes of \$5,000 each, four third prizes of \$2,500 each, six fourth prizes of \$1,500 each, and 36 prizes of \$1,000 each.

Entry blanks, as well as further information about the contest, are available from the National Youth Scholarship Committee, 130 East 59th Street, New York 22.

► MAGAZINE AT HOME AND AT WORK: In February, Jerry Raderstorf, director of recreation at Oak Park, Michigan, enrolled all seven members of his recreation advisory board as active associate members of the NRA and requested, in each case, that RECREATION be sent to the home address of these board members.

At almost the same time, John H. Davis, superintendent of recreation, Dalton, Georgia, enrolled the five persons on his recreation commission as members, with the magazine to go to their homes.

The Westchester County (New York) Recreation Commission has ordered ten subscriptions to RECREATION for educational work in the community.

IMPORTANT!

We are happy to give reprint permission wherever possible, but please check with us before using any material in RECREATION. On some rare occasions, we do not hold copyright!—The Editors



Editorially Speaking

Spring Carnival

Spring is an adventure in Switzerland! In this land of mountains and snows and deep, green valleys folklore flourishes, and the sober winter yielding to the brilliant spring brings forth an outburst of joy and gaiety. Spring is a miracle of beauty in the Swiss Alps, but is also exciting in the lower areas. Quaint customs and festivals are inseparable in springtime.

Toward the end of April, Zurich opens its celebration with a children's parade. Flower bedecked floats bearing the Goddess of Spring and her attendants are towed through the streets. In this happy procession is the weird and frosty figure of Boogg, a symbol of winter. Made of wood and covered with cotton wool, his insides are stuffed with firecrackers. In the evening, when the clocks strike six, following the colorful cavalcade of the ancient guilds, Boogg is set afire to expiate his wrongdoings. Amid the flare of the flames and the bursts of the firecrackers, a company of horsemen dressed in flowing white circle the pyre. In the hills and mountains around, companion fires flare up and a night festival climaxes the day.

Easter is a particularly happy season. In the Lake Lucerne region the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is reverently depicted. Highlight of the pre-Lenten festivities, it is a celebration that goes back to medieval days, with archery and wrestling matches, open-air theatricals, and masquerades.

Climax of carnival festivities is the Basel Carnival, known throughout Europe for its art and wit. In preparation, costumes are fashioned with the greatest secrecy. Cleverly illuminated posters and lanterns make fun of all that has happened in the city during the past year. Blunders of the town council and of magistrates are revived, and citizens receive some sarcastic knocks.

Why Have Playgrounds?

School is out! There go the children! Where are they going? What will they do this summer? They are *your* children, mister! A few of the luckier ones will go into summer camps, into the congested but wholesome activities of some boys' club, or work on a farm. However, most of them are going into the city streets, out to the city dumps, off into the suburban woodlots and fields.

Some of them, giving vent to normal, healthy, animal spirits, unguided by sympathetic adult experience, will drown in forbidden swimming holes. Some will be crushed under the rushing wheels of modern traffic. Some, seeking the acclaim of their mates, will transgress the grownups' rules of propriety and will join the list of "juvenile delinquents." Some will venture, untrained, unwarned, to play with forbidden weapons. . . .

What are you going to do about it, Mister? These kids, you know, are the America of tomorrow. You may be childless but you have to live with these youngsters and their parents—not only tomorrow, but today . . . Don't you want to spend your old age in a nation governed by clear-headed, straight-thinking, courageous younger men?

* * *

School's out. The kids are spreading out everywhere. They are getting into everything. If they get into trouble it's your fault, mister!—C. B. Lister, in *American Rifleman*.

Easter's Coming!—April 6





Readers! You are invited to send letters for this page to Editor, RECREATION, 8 West Eighth Street, New York 11—so that your ideas, opinions and attitudes may be exchanged with others on the wide range of subjects of concern to us all. Here is your chance to agree or disagree with the authors of our articles. Keep letters brief—not more than 250 words.

—The Editors.

Letter to a Local Paper

Sirs:

The [Wilmington, Delaware,] Board of Park Commissioners, at their meeting on September 12, passed the following resolution:

"Resolved that it should be the policy and practice of the Board of Park Commissioners that whenever and wherever a growing tree is destroyed on park lands or a dead tree is permanently removed therefrom, that another tree will be planted to replace the tree that is destroyed or removed."

"Be it further resolved that the Board of Park Commissioners endeavor to persuade other appropriate city, county, and state departments to adopt a similar policy."

The [Delaware] State Highway Department has recently agreed that whenever and whenever their work necessitates the removal of a tree on park property, with the approval of the park commission, they will plant another tree wherever the superintendent of parks may designate.

We hope that some of our new planting under this program may be done even along the streets of Wilmington, in front of private homes where the owners are willing to take care of any trees that are so planted by the park commission.

We are announcing this program . . . with the hope that . . . park executives throughout the country may . . . do something of a similar nature. We are also advising the Garden Club of America and the Izaak Walton League of this program, in the hope that they will also assist in furthering these objectives. It is our understanding that in Switzerland this is a national policy with severe penalties for noncompliance.

We know of no other community, county, or state in America that is following such a routine and it may be, in consequence, that this movement is original in Wilmington and that it may

lead to preventing our countryside from being denuded of its woodlands. Several private citizens have learned of our endeavor and have agreed to cooperate.

The proposed new planting may not be done at the site of the tree which has been removed, but there are plenty of locations throughout our community where trees are badly needed and our park superintendent will be pleased to designate these spots and the type of tree best suited.

We hope that these thoughts will receive careful consideration by the citizens of Wilmington and vicinity, for the improvement of the city, and the welfare of all.

MAURICE DUPONT LEE, President, Board of Park Commissioners, 5421 Nemours Building, Wilmington, Delaware.

• For other news of Wilmington parks, see p. 136.—Ed.

Your Office

Sirs:

Congratulations on the article in the January, 1958 issue, "Your Office." For many years I have felt the same way about recreation offices, and, in our own way, we have tried to remedy this situation. However, after reading your article, I made up my mind to restudy our situation and see if we can't dress things up even more than we are doing now.

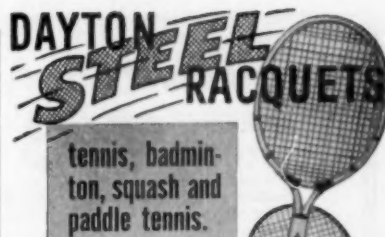
RUSSELL J. FOVAL, Superintendent of Recreation, Playground and Recreation Board, Decatur, Illinois.

Usable Ideas

Sirs:

I would like . . . to express . . . my sincere thanks and appreciation for the aid and ideas I have obtained from RECREATION Magazine.

It has been a great aid in our programming for the past five years. Just recently we have used some information and ideas to a great advantage in



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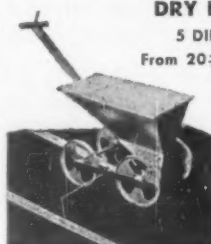
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our Christmas program. Among these were: "A Phone Santa Program"; a "Santa Claus Suit Lending Service"; a "Santa Claus School"; and a "Hans Christian Andersen Art Festival."

. . . Best wishes to the RECREATION Magazine for continued growth and service. . . .

EDSEL B. MARTZ, Supervisor, Community Centers & Playgrounds, Department of Recreation and Parks, Arlington 1, Virginia.

Exchange Requested

Sirs:

We would like very much to exchange golden-age papers with groups in other cities. Mr. J. W. Faust suggested that we write you for the names and addresses of others who publish these papers. It will be appreciated if you will send us this list at your convenience.

Our own paper is called *Golden Age Notes*.

MRS. JOE UPCHURCH, Director, Social Recreation, Montgomery, Alabama.

Rx Recreation

Sirs:

Our library print of your film *Rx Recreation* is now being used in Pretoria, Union of South Africa, and quoted below is a paragraph from a communication just received from that post:

"The Rotary Club of Johannesburg is extremely interested in this film and is planning to start a similar recreation program here in South Africa. They would also like to show it to other clubs who might be interested in this scheme. Any booklets or information issued by the National Recreation Association in New York would also be welcomed."

BECKY SANFORD, Chief, Acquisitions Branch, Motion Picture Service, U. S. Information Agency, Washington, D. C.

Artificial Rinks

Sirs:

In William Radke's article "Ice Skating on Plastic" in the February issue of RECREATION, a statement is made that no known community south of the Great Lakes has an ice skating facility larger than 100' x 200'.

Please be advised that here in Saint Louis, on November 11, 1957, we opened a permanent outdoor ice rink with an ice-skating surface measuring 120' x 230'. It is not plastic, but one continuous concrete slab measuring 120' x 230'. However, we do consider our rink artificial in that we have twenty-three miles of brine tubing beneath the concrete slab.

We believe that this rink, built at a cost of slightly less than \$1,000,000, is the most beautiful skating rink in the United States, and if you do not believe what I have said, ask anyone of the two hundred thousand persons who have enjoyed our rink since last November.

JAMES E. HEATH, *Superintendent of Recreation, St. Louis, Missouri.*

Space Encroachment

Sirs:

We were very much interested in the series RECREATION ran on the encroachment problem in the park and recreation field. *Park Maintenance* has also been publicizing this problem for a long time. We hope that together we may do enough good so that eventually city councils and others in power will "see the light" and plan ahead for community improvement.

ERIK MADISEN, JR., *Managing Editor, Park Maintenance, Appleton, Wisconsin.*

Need More Interpretation

Sirs:

I am a young man of 23, with a BS in recreation; and have been working in Special Services since 1957. The reason I am writing this letter is because I am *sick and tired* of people asking me what I have my degree in and laughing when I tell them *recreation*. This makes me furious; if people only knew the *work* that goes into program planning, and the extra hours you have I don't think they would get such a kick out of it. Also if they realized what rewards are reaped by trained personnel in this field, I daresay they would realize the fact that there is a great need for more such personnel to carry on the work so vitally needed, especially with the younger generation. It is the only chance for survival in the coming years of more leisure time, when the young people will need us more than ever. . . .

More attention must be given to the recreation programs in cities and in every spot in the United States—and to more original ideas—and we must train more men and women for the job. High praise to your magazine; it must be given great credit for contributing to the recreation program. . . .

PAUL OTT CARRUTH, *Service Club, Killeen Base, Killeen, Texas.*

"Splendid Review"

Sirs:

Thank you for the splendid review you have afforded *Municipal Law* in the March, 1958, issue of your nationally prominent magazine, RECREATION. Your interest in acquainting persons in your field with the availability of this new work is deeply appreciated. . . .

BRICE W. RHYNE, *Associate General Counsel, National Institute of Municipal Law Officers, Washington 6, D. C.*



A FENCING PROGRAM

For 2 or 200. Requires minimum space and simple inexpensive equipment. We design and manufacture the

best and least expensive weapons and accessories for beginners and experts. Let us help you set up a fencing activity or develop the one you have. Consultations free.

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KAZOO BAND INSTRUMENTS



KAZOO *Company, Inc.*
EDEN, NEW YORK

**Originators of the
KAZOO and KAZOO BAND INSTRUMENTS**



East Orange youngsters embark for faraway lands. The jetty, sand, and pilings add a tang of reality as the captain swings the wheel and heads his boat out to sea.

AMERICA's Playground 1958 reveals imagination, and concern for creative play. Here are some brief accounts and suggestions that can help you give your own playground a modern touch at little cost.

The Nautical Influence*

"East Orange Goes Nautical" was the headline in New Jersey's largest newspaper when a story and picture appeared concerning "the harbor," a fully developed playground, recently opened by the East Orange Recreation Commission.

Landlocked East Orange youngsters can now go down to the sea in ships—at least in one mock fourteen-foot cabin cruiser. Along with the boat, a sparkling maritime theme was carried out with a lighthouse, jetty, and pilings.

For less than \$200, the department purchased two not-so-seaworthy boats, constructed a lighthouse out of cinder blocks, drove in cut-down telephone poles, to simulate a jetty and dock, and added sand for that beach effect. This new equipment has enjoyed overwhelming popularity and use and has even attracted new visitors.

This was not a stab in the dark or a flair for the sensational. Careful consideration and effort were put into interesting innovations in the playground that would add to its play value. Careful attention was given to the play-community theory.

As a youngster approaches the equipment, he or she first comes in contact with the "sea-washed" jetty stumps painted in sea green with whitecaps on top. The two haphazard lines of stumps are arranged lower and closer together in the front. However, each succeeding stump becomes higher and farther apart, giving the illusion of shallower water, and making it increasingly difficult for a youngster to

* See also, "Playshore," p. 118.

Imagination Visits

reach the "dock area" and boat as he jumps from stump to stump.

The boat is set in the rear of the jetty flanked with pilings of four poles of varied heights. The cabin in the boat has seats for two or three youngsters, but more manage to crowd in. The glass windows on all sides have been removed.

A mast with crossarm was inserted to satisfy the natural desire to climb. Use was made of a scrap apparatus pole, which was set in cement under the boat. A rope ladder was made to facilitate climbing up the mast. This is used as a lookout, as the picture indicates.

The cabin roof was reinforced, so that it could be used for sun bathing and jumping. A small ladder was built in, from the deck to the cabin roof, for the smaller tots to climb. An automobile steering wheel was almost a necessity and immediately became the most popular device of the unit.

A boat needed more atmosphere in a playground than at the seashore, so a lighthouse was added. Of course, a lighthouse without play value is really only an ornament, so we conceived the idea of a structure surrounded by a catwalk that might be used as another lookout. There was to be an opening near the top, which would face a sliding pole for getting to the ground quickly, as is often found in firehouse equipment.

Fortunately, a local concrete company manufactured curved cinder blocks for manholes and sewers. This gave us the idea for the substantial, but inexpensive, material for building. Openings for windows and doors could be neatly placed simply by omitting blocks.

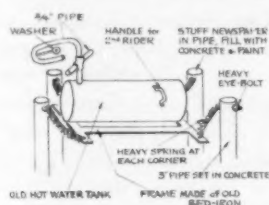
Our maintenance foreman, Lawrence Renna, took the sketchy ideas, with his own plan for an outside catwalk, and the lighthouse was soon a reality through the efforts of our maintenance crew. A light was installed at the top, which the youngsters could easily reach and turn in all directions. Finally, all of the new equipment was given a bright coat of paint, and twenty tons of beach sand was spread about. Public response to the area, which is adjacent to conventional swings, slides, and merry-go-round, was most gratifying and has spurred the staff into developing similar schemes in other areas, change always attracting children, particularly where their imagination is challenged.

A playground should keep up with the changing needs and interests of our young people. New play equipment that is attractive and appealing will renew interest in your playgrounds, as well as augment use of your traditional apparatus, thus providing maximum utilization of existing space.—GRAHAM M. SKEA, *Superintendent of Recreation, East Orange, New Jersey.*

the Playground—1958

Ride 'Em, Cowboy!

The two simple pieces of playground apparatus described here will be popular with the Hopalongs, Annie Oakleys, Lone Rangers, and all the cowboys and Indians of the "horsey" set. Each is very simple in construction and could be made very easily and inexpensively in the school workshop or by the maintenance department. Make them in

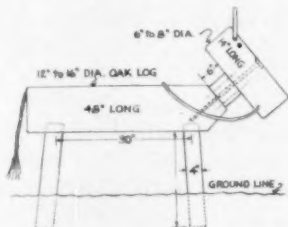


varying sizes, and different colors, put them in a "corral" with Western brands decorating the gate—and watch the youngsters take to the trail!

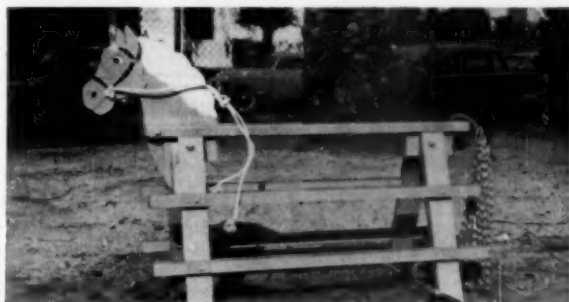
Mr. Clarence A. Neal, director of the Sunbury, Pennsylvania Youth and Community Center, sent in the very original metal horse. It can carry double; it moves! It was designed by Richard Green, industrial arts teacher in the Sunbury Junior High School and crafts instructor for the playground system. He guarantees that Old Pipelegs may start off with gay paint, but will be worn down to his original dun color by the end of summer, because the youngsters love him so. The sketch is self-explanatory.

Horse No. 2, Old Oakheart, is slightly more conventional. He was sent in by John B. Penney, director of the recreation and parks department of Concord, New Hampshire. He and his family were designed and constructed by Roland G. Lachance, supervisor of maintenance and construction, from an old oak tree cut down in one of the parks. Sketch gives a general impression of the horse, but doesn't do him justice!

To make Old Oakheart, Mr. Lachance says: "Cut oak log about 48 inches long, bevel front end 45° from center. Peel log of all bark. Peel four oak legs approximately four inches diameter, 32 inches long. Countersink four holes into body



In this new age, as space-mindedness invades the playground, equipment should keep up with changing needs. "Satellite," above, is one such modern design.



Another easily made and durable horse for "Ride 'Em Cowboy." Horses, of all sorts, are always popular.



Amusing seahorses bring the sea to inland Playshore, in Montebello, California (see page 118). Below, the Wild West corral in Essex County, New Jersey.



two inches deep, to fit end of legs. Fasten with steel straps from inside of legs to under part of body, between legs. Head and neck are drilled with $\frac{3}{4}$ " drill, body with $\frac{1}{2}$ " drill for $\frac{5}{8}$ " by 16" lag screw. Metal straps should be put on side of head and neck to body to prevent turning. Ears of leather are best. Harness and tail can be replaced—rope lasts quite well. Finish with oil stain and let dry."

It's not too late to build up a "stable" for the 1958 playground season. These two horses are safe and satisfactory. The children of Sunbury and Concord rode them happily; the small fry in your town will love them too.

Corral


A Western theme is used by the Essex County Park Commission in Brookdale Park, Bloomfield, New Jersey, in lieu of a "dragon pit" idea that came from Europe via Frank Evans, director of recreation in Maplewood. The Brookdale Corral, as it is known, finds youngsters aged two to ten swarming over the lean-tos, riding the bucking bronco, and creating, in their imaginations, Wild West situations undreamed of in Hollywood or on television and having a good time doing so. One of the more popular items is a climbing pole with a triangular gong and striker at its top; its notes peal throughout the day.

Other features include a rustic seesaw, a mule train, a burling log, several other climbing poles, a zigzag fence, and a stockade with simulated cannon on swivels, with crawl space to get in and out.

Skinned white cedar logs were used for all its parts. It was designed by the engineering department and constructed by the maintenance department. The ground is covered with tanbark. A log fence, also used for seating, surrounds the entire area. It is centrally located, adjacent to the regular playground and attracts many people all day long.

From the Designers

Today's designers, architects, artists, educators, and recreation leaders, too, are attempting to fill not only the children's physical needs, but their dramatic interests, needs for adventure, need for learning, and for growth.

Working with wood, concrete, plastic, they are experimenting with pieces of play equipment that make no attempt to reproduce actual objects but, rather, present the child with an inviting shape or form his imagination can turn into rocks, caves, mountains, planes, or what-have-you. In other words, they make no attempt to superimpose adult concepts upon the children's play, but offer abstract forms to stimulate freedom and spontaneity. 

Research Reviews and Abstracts

Practices with Sports Officials

The research and information division of the District of Columbia Recreation Department has secured statements from thirteen metropolitan cities about practices in dealing with sports officials. Following are some of the findings:

- Ten cities use the baseball officials' association as their source of officials; three use an approved list other than the association; three use department employees; and two reported using older youths and adults.
- Eight cities report using the basketball officials' association; four, another approved list; four, department employees, and two, older youths and adults.
- Softball association officials are used by nine cities, with four reporting use of an approved list; three, department employees, and two, older youths and adults.
- Seven, six and eight cities reported the exclusive use of the officials' associations for their paid officials in baseball, basketball, and softball, respectively. Two others use them for adult baseball leagues only, and one reported they are "usually" used.
- One city indicated the officials' associations did not cooperate with the department in arranging rates, schedule, and so on. Three others did not answer the question.
- Past experience by one city indicated that officials' associations became pressure groups, giving difficulty on fees,

assignments, and so on. Accordingly, it organized a training program of its own, used qualified officials for its games.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Careful examination of the returned questionnaires gives the impression that those departments participating most actively with the officials' associations have less difficulty with them.
- Departments seemingly most content are those which have organized their own associations or training courses and established an approved list of qualified officials.
- Generally there is close cooperation and little conflict between recreation departments and the officials' associations.
- Use of paid officials is most prevalent among adult leagues; youth leagues are more inclined to use department employees or older youth and adults.

Swimming Study

A pilot study on a swimming program for severely mentally retarded children conducted in Ontario, Canada, in 1956 (see RECREATION, February 1957, page 63) yielded the following results:

The children progressed a little each week, remembering some of the skills taught the previous week. The majority progressed to a point where they would fit in very nicely in a small class receiving group instruction. Only two children refused to enter the water.

It appeared that these children can learn to swim if they receive individual instruction or are paired according to compatibility and ability. Their enjoyment was obvious and they delighted in demonstrating the newly learned skills. ■

A Playground



Every American playground has a Joseph Lee Day or Week—to honor the “Godfather of Play.” Charleston follows carnival-circus pattern, attracts 4,000 children.



A voluntary penny, from the children of America, in the name of this great leader, for recreation leadership—if matched by other playgrounds—could help meet one of the field's greatest needs.

Meets a Challenge

Will you cooperate, and do something about the leadership shortage, in honor of Joseph Lee? Write us what you think.

Robert E. Kresge

SOMEONE once said that the only sure things in this life are death and taxes. We in recreation are sure of at least two other things—Joseph Lee's unique position in our field and the critical, almost fatal, shortage of recreation leadership. There are other giants in recreation history; but there is only one “Godfather of Play”—Joseph Lee. Facts about Mr. Lee's right to this title, and why he is so revered, have been recorded over and over again, so we will not repeat them. However, we would like to show how the memory of Joseph Lee can be used to draw the public's attention to the scarcity of trained leaders in recreation, and, more important, arouse citizens to do something about it.

The playgrounds in Charleston, West Virginia, always have a Joseph Lee Day in late July; this is nothing new in Charleston or elsewhere. It has been a national custom that each playground conduct a special event, such as a carnival, picnic, or junior olympics; a picture of Joseph Lee might be on display—and that would be that until another year.

This didn't satisfy one of Charleston's supervisors. He wanted to see this commemoration take on a more lasting form, and he suggested a fund to be created by each playground child's donating a penny on Joseph Lee Day. If this were done all over the country, quite a few pennies (1,000,000 pennies equal \$10,000) would be available for some recreation project Joseph Lee would have rejoiced to see.

The idea was permitted to age a few years; it lost no strength in the process. Finally, the thought was communi-

cated to the National Recreation Association. Encouragement to proceed with what might be termed a pilot project was given. From this correspondence there also developed the idea of having it become a “Joseph Lee Scholarship Fund for Recreation Leadership Training.”

So, last summer, Joseph Lee Day on our playgrounds had a quadruple purpose: to provide good recreation; to recognize Joseph Lee and his contribution to recreation in America; to publicize today's urgent need for recreation leaders; and to allow every person using the playgrounds to give a penny or more to a fund which bore the name of Joseph Lee, which would help solve recreation's number one problem today.

This last objective made it necessary to do a thorough job of acquainting everyone, young and old, with Joseph Lee. Mimeographed handouts describing his life were generously distributed on all playgrounds and in their neighborhoods prior to or on the day the special event was to take place.


Each playground planned its own program. The leaders were enthusiastic, so much so, that the original idea of having each child give a penny was nearly lost in the plans as finally executed. Most playgrounds did have youngsters circulating through the crowds with containers for penny donations. The departure came in that the leaders used the program, which, in most cases, followed the carnival theme, as a means of increasing their playground's contribution to the Joseph Lee Fund. We discouraged charging for anything but food and drink.

A few playgrounds raised a considerable sum, dividing

MR. KRESGE is superintendent of parks and recreation in Charleston, West Virginia.

this between their own needs and the Joseph Lee Fund. Those which had the best affairs and the least headaches afterwards were ones which used play money for everything but refreshments. The newspapers devoted much more space to it than to previous Joseph Lee Day programs.

Charleston is eager to add to the \$64.98 it contributed to the fund it started. What it does this summer depends on the response of other cities to the idea.

Good recreation; a vital cause; done in the name of Joseph Lee—there it is! From here on it's up to you in Sioux City, to you in West Palm Beach, to you in Colorado Springs, to you in Philadelphia, to you in Austin, to you in Pasadena, to you recreation departments everywhere! 

From Mayor's Proclamation

It is a pleasure for me to proclaim the week of July 22-26 as Joseph Lee Week in Charleston, during which time all of Charleston's playgrounds will set aside a day for a special program. I heartily approve of the plan whereby all children using the playgrounds will be given a chance to thank Joseph Lee and show their appreciation for playgrounds. Their pennies and nickels, if placed in what might be called "The Joseph Lee Scholarship Fund for Recreation Leadership Training," and when matched by similar gifts from playground children through America, could help meet recreation's greatest need today—qualified leadership.—John T. Copenhaver, Mayor, Charleston, West Virginia.

DANGEROUS ROCKET EXPERIMENTS



Recreation departments and leaders, a dangerous situation has been uncovered that sound, creative, and forceful leadership could do much to alleviate. Replies to questionnaires sent out by First Army Headquarters on Governors Island, New York, to junior rocket groups, composed of teen-age youngsters engaged mainly in making things explode, reveal that most of these youngsters have been carrying out their rocket experiments without parental knowledge or adult supervision. For the most part, the youngsters make their rockets from a simple metal casing and a propellant substance of some sort, frequently match heads, for the blast-off. Captain Bertrand R. Brinley, chief of the news branch at headquarters, explains that match heads in combination with good design make a good rocket—and, also, a lethal bomb.

He strongly urges that, in experimenting with rockets using propellents of any type, these junior rocketeers have the advice and guidance of adults over twenty-five years of age, that they inform their parents of their activities, and also that they let the local fire and police departments in on it, too.

A positive aspect of this situation is

described in an announcement by the American Rocket Society (in existence since 1930) that it may soon set up a Junior Registry, a national organization of junior rocketry enthusiasts, seventeen years and younger, with the idea of giving teen-agers a thorough background in space exploration, study, theoretical analysis, and providing them with facilities and expert supervision. A successful pilot experiment has already been conducted by the ARS Washington, D. C. chapter, guided by Lt. Col. C. M. Parkin, missile authority from the Army Engineers Research and Development Laboratory, himself a member of the society. He has organized some three hundred local high school students and is in the process of supplying them with films, books, materials, and speakers, and arranging demonstrations, which are seen either from behind a concrete bunker or on a TV screen—a far cry from the unsupervised fooling around of most groups.

A spokesman in the New York ARS office reports that the national organization is making a nation-wide survey to find out exactly how much teen-age interest such a group would engender. The youngest ARS membership now ex-

tended is to students seventeen and over. The society is a professional one and has made many firm public statements against any amateur research at all. It has also found that the youngster just interested in making things explode is *not* the one who later turns into the serious scientist. Blast off, recreation people, and make experimenting safe, educational, and fun.

"Whether people like it or not, the boys' rockets are going to get bigger and better and faster," says Captain Brinley and cites the hundreds of letters he has received from boys. One such typical missile missive tersely presents a realistic difficulty encountered by boy rocketeers:

"I find one problem always present, that is finding the rocket once it has landed."

The first phase of his program, declares Captain Brinley, was getting to know the number of teen-aged rocketeers and their problems. The second phase will be to enlist cooperation of industrialists and educators to provide safety information, skilled technical advice, and help in setting up down-to-earth programs.

The third phase of the problem would be to obtain launching pads in a safe area, bunkers and periscopes, remote firing controls, modern electronic equipment to track down the boys' missiles, and qualified supervisors to keep everything in its orbit.

"Some of the boys have an enormous potential," Captain Brinley points out, "and industry will be grabbing them up. We just want them to live to see that day." ■



Convention Hall, Atlantic City.

Recreation Enters the Space Age

40th National Recreation Congress*

SEPTEMBER IN ATLANTIC CITY is a tremendous experience—warm fall days, ocean swimming, deep-sea fishing, miles of the famous boardwalk. This world-famous playground will provide a stimulating background for the social life of the Congress. At the moment, we know that there will be a Congress get-together on Monday night, square dancing on Wednesday night, plus the American Recreation Society Banquet, and the National Recreation Association Banquet and Dance.

Plans Shape Up for Week-Long Meeting

There will be emphasis this year on trends, facts, new ideas and new developments. Special attention will be given to the implications of the "Space Age" as they relate to recreation. With the present national emphasis on science, the case for recreation will be reinterpreted in the light of today's needs. Alertness must be the watchword—alertness to the types of recreation demanded by the new age.

A noted American scientist, for instance, has suggested that this country "develop its pure creative talents and potentials or face loss of the economic and military race with Russia." (Eugene Ayres, formerly in charge of research for Gulf Refining Company, writing in the *American Petroleum Institute Quarterly*, goes on to describe the potential inventor as a nonconformist, more artist than scientist, who should be encouraged to exercise his ingenuity.) Congress sessions will discuss ways of getting our own recreation spaceship into the air.

Committees

Joint committees of ARS Sections and NRA National Advisory Committees, and others, have been meeting under the direction of Charles B. Cranford, chairman of Special Interest Programs. SPECIAL INTEREST Committees, each with a subchairman from both ARS and NRA sponsoring agencies, are as follows:

Armed Forces; Professional Education; Research; State and Federal Recreation; Local Government; Parks; Rural; Industrial; Hospital, Ill and Handicapped; and others as

determined by the Executive Committee.

Robert B. Crawford is serving as chairman of GENERAL INTEREST Sessions and has enlisted the aid of recreation executives across the country in setting up these sessions of the Congress.

Local Arrangements

A committee composed of civic leaders of Atlantic City, representatives of the New Jersey Public Recreation Association, the Parks and Recreation Bureau of the New Jersey State Department of Conservation and Economic Development, and the Mid-Atlantic District Advisory Committee are working out necessary local arrangements.

All exhibits this year will be in the Ambassador Hotel, as will be most of the Congress meetings. The exhibit area is ideally located on the mezzanine and will have direct access from the main meeting rooms.

Post Congress Tours

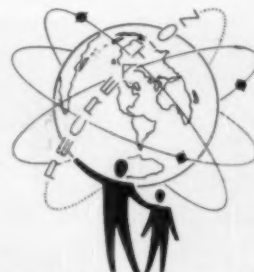
Plans are being made for post Congress tours, including Philadelphia, New York City, and other points of interest. For those who may want to go sightseeing during the week-end following the Congress, a low-budget, all-inclusive package trip is planned, with detailed announcement soon.

Four general sessions are scheduled, with outstanding speakers. There will be master sessions dealing with many major problems faced by recreation executives, which will provide additional time for discussion. ■

*Atlantic City,

New Jersey,

September 22 to 26.





One of a series of seven new recreation buildings. Two of them are now nearing completion.

Cleveland's New Recreation Centers

Signposts of the future, seven beautiful new buildings auger well for the future of recreation in Cleveland, and indicate a trend of the times in the recreation field in general.

Claire Newman

A VISITOR to the Cleveland, Ohio, Division of Recreation studied the wood and plaster model on a desk in the office of commissioner John S. Nagy. "What's that going to be?" he demanded.

The Cleveland chief smiled. "We've planned it to be the best recreation center in the country," he said. Mr. Nagy remains confident that his statement will prove accurate. Seven such \$958,000 brick-and-concrete structures are planned for Cleveland; two are already nearing completion, the F. B. Fairfax Recreation Center on Cleveland's east side and the E. M. Estabrook Recreation Center on the southwest. These master units are part of a ten-year capital improvement program in Cleveland.

All the centers are to be the same inside, and each will be situated near the center of a large recreation development. The two-story layout combines the best of modern ideas in recreation and architecture. The entire develop-

MRS. NEWMAN is a member of the staff of the Cleveland Recreation Division's Bureau of Public Relations and Research.

To reader's left, ball field, space for free play, horse-shoes, shuffleboard; right, tots' play area, game courts.



ment area will include numerous sports facilities, free play areas, and a parking lot. Among the unusual features of these centers are: an indoor-outdoor swimming pool; a gym that converts from basketball court to tennis court to a stage-equipped theater in a matter of minutes; a strategically located "rumpus room"; and a comfortable lounge for the city's increasing number of senior citizens.

When Mr. Nagy sat down with city architect Anthony Gattozzi to plan this recreation project he had fourteen years' experience at the Cleveland helm behind him.* He knows that he is indeed fortunate to serve a city where recreation is considered an important municipal service. However, even in Cleveland money is important; therefore Mr. Nagy's recreation philosophy is based on, "The greatest good for the greatest number at the least cost." He realized that good facilities alone—gyms, pools, craft rooms, lounges—would not be enough. What sets one recreation building above another, what ultimately proves the most economical, is the well-planned structure. Thus, intelligent and effective planning became the keynote of Cleveland's new recreation centers.

Planning certainly was missing in the existing centers when Mr. Nagy took over. Most of Cleveland's present centers are pre-World War I. All but one began its service to the community as a bathhouse. To give the patrons some way to pass their time as they waited, game rooms were added. Gyms followed, then came craft rooms, and swimming pools. Eventually, as bathing facilities became more universally available, these "bathhouses" lost their original function; but their popularity did not diminish. They had

* Architectural drawings and specifications by Joseph A. Gattozzi, AIA.

become companionable centers of neighborhood recreation.

In this new role of recreation center, the houses became more and more cumbersome to operate. Their helter-skelter growth had left no opportunity for planning. Each new wing seemed to bring its own entrance and exit. With no control over the flow of traffic, staff members were hard put to keep track of patrons. Rooms accommodating similar activity groups were widely separated. Steep stairs and long hallways not only added to the task of an already overworked recreation staff, but made it virtually impossible for older people to use many of the facilities. Maintenance problems also became heavy.

To compensate for errors of the past, needlessly large staffs were necessary. It had become obvious that these eclectic recreation centers, costly to operate, would not suffice for expanding recreation needs in Cleveland. This was the situation when voters made available bond money for the centers, expressly designed for their purpose.

The new "super centers" are so designed that patrons are to have access only through the front entrance. As they proceed through a spacious lobby, they will encounter a glass-enclosed desk—the control point of the center. The secretary seated here will greet people and direct them to the various activities taking place in the building. Since the secretary will come into contact with all comers, attendance records will be accurate. As rooms will be numbered and direction signs posted, traffic will be kept moving.

The simple balance maintained in the building's layout will contribute to staff mobility as well as an easy flow of patrons. Related activities are grouped together; one craft area accommodates separate rooms for the various activities in session at one time. A single arts and crafts super-

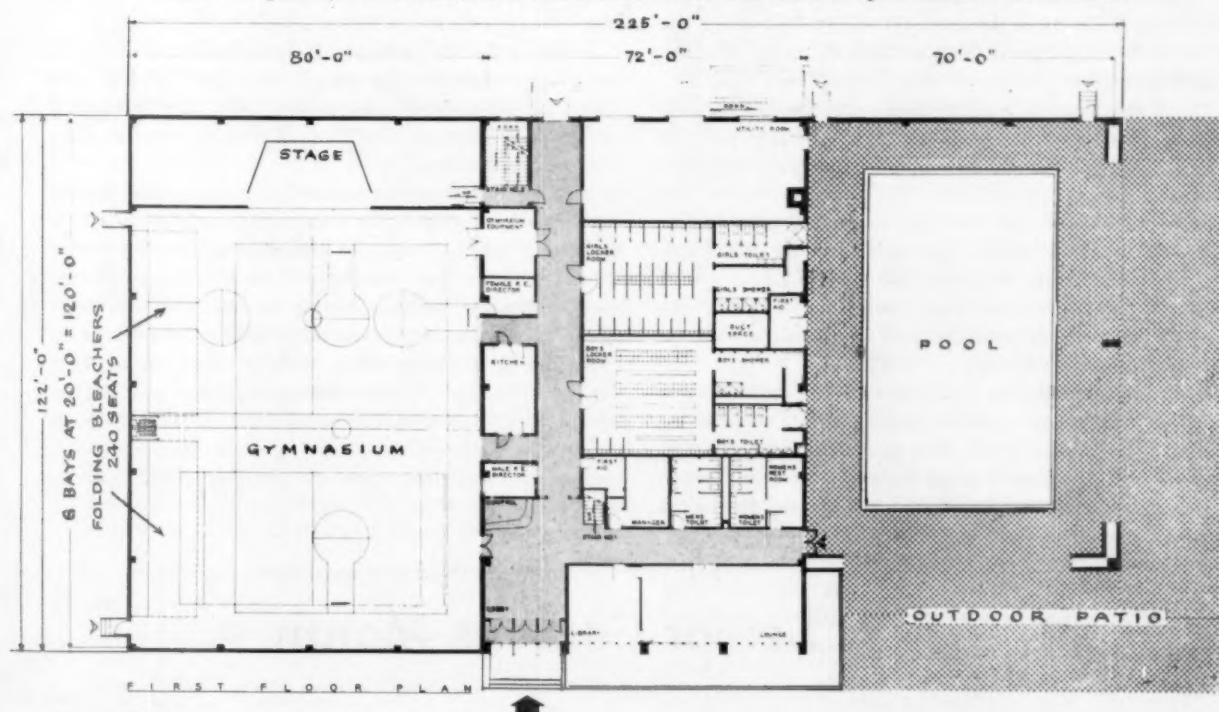
visor can give expert guidance to jewelry, leather, wood, and ceramics handcrafters during the same period. The drama and music areas are situated in one large room with a room divider, making it possible to coordinate the two arts, or to conduct them as separate activities. Offices of the physical education directors are placed between the gymnasium and the swimming pool, within easy reach of both. For the same reason, the locker rooms are situated between the gym and pool, allowing direct access from each.

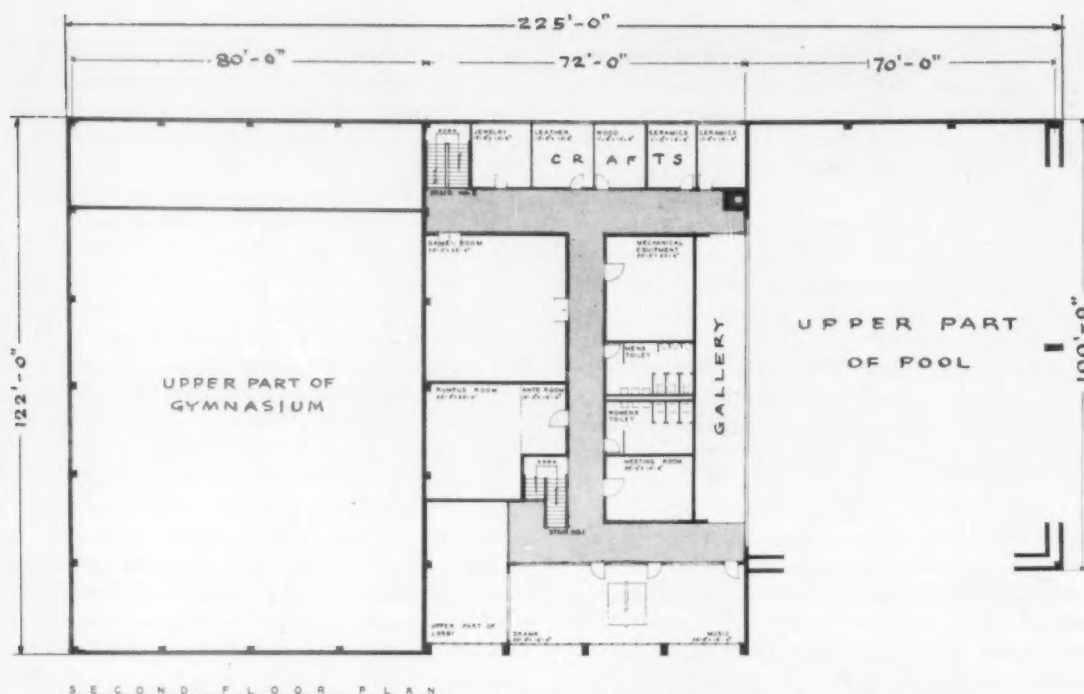
Special groups, both young and old, receive individual attention in the new centers. One of recreation's greatest challenges today is unaffiliated youth groups. In all Cleveland centers, of course, youngsters are welcome to participate in scheduled activities; but those boys who are not as yet ready for these will not have to seek elsewhere for fun. They can use the rumpus room.

"Young boys need to blow off steam," says Mr. Nagy, "and our rumpus room exists for no other purpose." This room is his pet idea. It is at the head of the stairs on the second floor, and will be filled with mats, punching bags, skip ropes and similar gym equipment. It will be open to any boy who wants to enjoy this equipment and also will be used by boys who arrive early to class. It is hoped that the rumpus room will encourage young boys who would otherwise stay away to come to the center. Gradually, as they become more at home in these surroundings, such boys will be given the support needed to enter the scheduled activities.

Also receiving recognition is the ever-increasing group of older people who have unique recreation needs. In planning for these people, Mr. Nagy believes that the old recreation standard of utility is not completely applicable. Golden agers must, in many situations, be drawn into the

First floor plan. All centers are to be the same inside. Note indoor-outdoor pool and directors' offices.





SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Second floor plan. Craft area (top) has separate rooms for jewelry, leather, wood, ceramics.

centers. Comfort is a prime consideration as well as special programs geared to their needs, since these people sometimes do not mix well with other groups.

To help meet these specifications, the new centers have a special clubroom set aside for golden-age groups or any senior citizen looking for a comfortable place to spend an afternoon in the company of others. Television, chess, checkers, and plenty of comfortable sofas and easy chairs will be available. The library is to be next door. Located on the first floor, to eliminate the necessity of climbing stairs, the room is also just a short distance from the center kitchen, which often plays a large role in golden-age club affairs.

Of all the demands made upon a recreation center, calls for the gymnasium are insistent. For league games, the gym is a regulation-size basketball court, with bleachers folding out from the wall. For busy practice sessions, the bleachers fold back and two play areas come into view: a somewhat smaller basketball floor and a free area which can accommodate tennis or badminton groups. For special events, a full-size elevated stage gains the spotlight at one end of the gym. In minutes, folding chairs convert the gymnasium into a theater.

The pool area is also convertible. An outdoor-indoor affair, it changes over from summer to winter by means of sliding glass-paneled doors. The pool itself, forty-two feet by seventy-five, varies in depth from just over two feet to seven. Mr. Nagy is quite pleased with it and thinks the

extra investment in the sliding doors well spent. The huge warm-weather patio surrounding the pool has its purpose; surveys show that bathers spend but one-fourth of their time in the water, so that allowing ample room for sun-bathing increases capacity correspondingly.

Commissioner Nagy is aware that without the right staff, his recreation centers can remain a pile of bricks. He is confident, however, that he will find the top people he needs. Mr. Nagy feels that he has prepared the way for his staff by combining excellent facilities with functional design.

While he wouldn't presume to press his particular plans on other communities, the commissioner does feel they meet Cleveland's metropolitan problems. "We have recognized certain needs in recreation," he said recently, "and we have planned to meet them."

Mr. Nagy believes these centers can provide a new pattern for recreation facilities. In a large city, such as Cleveland, recreation buildings must be placed in a great number of areas. Each facility must be as nearly complete as possible. Thus the problem facing the administrative head of such a recreation program is to satisfy the needs of an area and, at the same time, remain within his working budget. The new Cleveland centers appear to hold the answer. While providing Cleveland's citizens with the most modern and efficient recreation facilities, the buildings—despite their initial expense—also promise to be less costly in the long run. ■

✿ May is Senior Citizens Month ✿

A Special Questions Project

Conducted by the NRA National Advisory Committee on Recreation Administration.

THE committee sent out a ten-question questionnaire; this is a brief summary of some of subjects that stimulated the greatest response.*

In a city with a thriving cooperative sports program, what is the best way of organizing, training, assigning, and supervising sports officials?

- **ORGANIZING.** The formation of an organization of sports officials for this—in which they have their own officers—with the recreation department's relinquishing leadership after it is operating satisfactorily—was recommended.
- **TRAINING.** Where highly organized officials' associations operate more or less independently of the recreation department, it is customary to expect these associations to supply trained officials. Where there is close liaison between the department and the officials' association, or where the association is responsible to the department, the department usually takes charge of training, with the supervisor of the sport in direct charge.
- **ASSIGNMENTS AND SUPERVISION.** Assignments are usually handled by the sports supervisor of the department. The amount of supervision given officials apparently varies widely from city to city. Many departments confine their efforts primarily to training and assigning officials.

What are the most effective methods of extending the public recreation program through cosponsorship of activities?

- The possibilities of cosponsorship depend upon the size of the city, the type of program offered, and the amount of outside interest. The recreation department should, in any cosponsorship arrangement, develop basic policies and provide, or have a major voice, in choosing the leadership.

Ample publicity should be given to all cosponsors; and the recreation director should be responsible for obtaining them by telling other agencies about opportunities for cosponsorship and asking them for ideas. The director might organize a community council, which would sit with the recreation board in an advisory capacity and hear plans and problems, members then reporting back to their own organization; or, an existing discussion group might be composed of leaders or organizations that might become sponsors. The director should have a detailed plan, if it is needed, but the cosponsoring agency should be allowed to work out plans if it can and will. Activity responsibilities and successes should be shared with cosponsors; and their contributions, service or financial, should be recognized.

What types of individuals have been most effective as recreation board members? Least effective?

The following qualities are desirable: appreciation of

civic responsibility; board participation in civic affairs and groups; understanding of the basic concept of community recreation and interest in the whole field of recreation, rather than in any one phase of it; absence of indebtedness to any one group or faction (resulting in the ability to resist pressure); an understanding of the division of responsibility between the board and the executive; a cooperative team spirit. Women interested in civic affairs were especially mentioned as desirable board members, as were the owners of small businesses. Above all, it was emphasized that the good board member attends meetings!

The one most listed undesirable quality was desire for personal gain. Many executives condemned the board member who serves because he sees his membership as a steppingstone.

There was disagreement about the value of doctors and lawyers on a board; one or two mentioned them specifically as undesirable, another as desirable.

What do recreation and parks executives want and expect of their boards? Vice-versa?

Boards should have a broad understanding of the whole recreation field, so that they can act as a buffer between the executive and community pressure groups. Of equal importance are:

- The formulation of broad and farseeing but practical policies conforming to the real community needs.
- An understanding of the distinction between administrative and policy-making functions, and a willingness to allow the professional staff to work without interference within the bounds of established policy.
- Active public relations work on the part of the board—bringing recreation needs to the attention of the public, working actively to secure public support, and generally publicizing the work of the recreation department.
- Loyalty to the professional staff—whatever differences may develop between the board and the superintendent at meetings, they should present a united front to the public.
- Regular attendance at board meetings was also listed.

In regard to the executive: boards expect efficient and honest administration from their superintendent; and they expect him to make farsighted and straightforward recommendations to the board regarding all phases of recreation in his community. Third, he should keep the board thoroughly informed about his department and all other matters coming within the board's jurisdiction.

It is important that the executive's loyalty to the board should be sufficiently strong to make it possible for him to carry out established policies with which he may have been in disagreement when they were originally discussed. He should also be a good public relations man. Growth on the job was also mentioned several times. ■

* Also see, "Concession vs Direct Operations," RECREATION, April 1957, p. 150 and p. 108 of this issue.



Talk About Kazoos...



Imagine 5,000 kazoos, all playing at once, and in honor of Joseph Lee! That's what happened at the big windup of the summer recreation program in Torrington, Connecticut, and it hasn't been the same since!

Nellie J. Sullivan

SHADES of John Philip Sousa! What marches he would have composed for a band of five thousand members, each one playing a kazoo! That's the story of the Torrington, Connecticut, Kazoo Concert.

A kazoo, according to Webster, is a "toy or rude instrument consisting of a tube inside of which is stretched a strip of catgut made to vibrate by singing or humming into it." To those who do not own a kazoo or are allergic to the stuffy dictionary definitions, a kazoo can be simply a comb covered with a piece of tissue paper and held to the lips while one hums a tune through it. A concert is a "musical performance of some length by several voices or instruments or both." Our concert is certainly musical. Well, musical, that is, in comparison to some of the dissonance that passes for music these days. It is a "performance," believe me!

Two years ago, the recreation department's program director, Carl Bozenski, came across that old song "Toodle-Dee-Doo on Your Old Kazoo." He immediately got the idea of a kazoo concert. Early in the play-

ground season he broached the idea to Edmund Waller, owner of local radio station WTOR, who promptly offered to contribute, gratis, to this unusual cause five thousand kazoos to be distributed (a) through the radio station itself, (b) through the local merchants, with the explicit understanding that there was no obligation to purchase anything in order to obtain a kazoo, and (c) through the ten local playgrounds.

And so was born the Kazoo Concert. The first year it attracted five thousand members, adults and children alike. Last year between seven and eight thousand participated in this event, the first, we believe, of its kind.

How does it work? Torrington's playground programs are geared to the last week of the playground season, usually the third week of August, known as Founders and Donors Week, honoring the founder of the playground movement in the United States, Joseph Lee, as well as local donors of parks or playground areas. Early in the summer season, kazoo bands are formed at each of the ten playgrounds. These bands are carefully rehearsed and then given an opportunity to perform over WTOR. The best band of the lot is chosen to be the city Kazoo Band. Ample publicity is given the choice through the local newspaper and the radio station.

WTOR and its genial owner have been the mainstay of many of Torrington's community projects: the Christmas Village, Mardi Gras, the Jack O'-Lantern Contest, teen-age dances, the Kazoo Concert, and others. Without its staunch and enthusiastic endorsement, as well as that of the local newspaper, the *Torrington Register*, these various ambitious community projects could not have been successfully undertaken.

Several men's club organize their own kazoo combos. The whole town becomes kazoo conscious. Pop practices in the shower, Mama works out with rock 'n' roll tunes, Junior arouses the neighborhood with his early-hour rendition of "Shine On, Harvest Moon."

On the last night of the playground season, always a Saturday, from five to seven thousand people stream into one park for the windup of the season. The Kiddy Kazoo band, judged the best of the playground groups, and augmented by a similar band from one of the men's clubs, is seated on an improvised stage along with a regular musical band. Following a short amateur show, put on by talented youngsters, also chosen from the various playgrounds, the musical band picks up the tune of "Davy Crockett" while fireworks set up in a distant corner of the field illuminate the night with a silhou-

MISS SULLIVAN is a Torrington high school teacher and guidance counselor. She is a former playground supervisor and now serves as a volunteer worker for the recreation department.

ette of Davy in his famous coonskin.* The people, all seven thousand, whip out their kazoo, moisten their lips, and give forth with the stirring strains of the old frontiersman, or "I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover," or "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" as the fireworks indicate. Between times, the evening's theme song, "Toodle-Dee-Doo on Your Old Kazoo" gets a good airing. This community spirit, this *esprit-de-corps*, is the most essential ingredient of any corporate project from a square dance to a kazoo concert. To paraphrase a famous quote** from Sir James Barrie's *What Every Woman Knows*, "If you have it (*esprit-de-corps*, we mean), you don't need to have anything else; and if you don't have it, it doesn't matter what else you have." ■

* See "Musical Fireworks," RECREATION, June 1954.

** He was referring to charm.

The Local Press

Five thousand kazooos (honest) are being distributed in Torrington this week, in preparation for the city's, and probably the world's first community kazoo concert.

The date for the unusual event, in case you want to attend or leave town, is Aug. 18.

WTOR Sponsoring Kazoos

Local radio station, WTOR, has underwritten the cost of the kazooos, which are being distributed free in downtown stores. There's no commercial tie-in, Carl [Bozenski] has insisted, ever since he began directing activities here, that the children's programs not be exploited in any way. The station is creating a little kazoo interest, these days, by frequent renderings of an old-time favorite, "Toodle-Dee-Doo on Your Old Kazoo."

There'll be a nonkazoo band on hand at the concert, to provide a melodic guide for the expected 5,000 kazoo artists, some of whom, Carl concedes, perhaps won't have had much practice prior to the concert.

"Be sure to come," Carl emphasized, "and kindly show your kazoo at the gate."—BERNARD J. MALAHAN in *The Hartford Times*, July 28, 1956.

on bunny head silhouette. Cut features from colored paper or draw them. Cut an eighteen-inch piece of wire and paste silhouettes together back to back with three inches of wire in between. One inch below chin, wrap wire with a strip of crepe around and around, forming a knob. Twist end of wire into flat spiral. Tape to inside center of box.

Ruffle: Cut a strip of green crepe eight inches wide by approximately thirty inches long, fold in half lengthwise, pin to hold in place and cut open edges into fringe. Cut strip in two fifteen-inch pieces, then place one on top of other and gather through center with needle and thread. Tie under bunny's chin.

Easter bonnet: Place flowers around one of bunny's ears and drape veiling over eyes, tying in back.

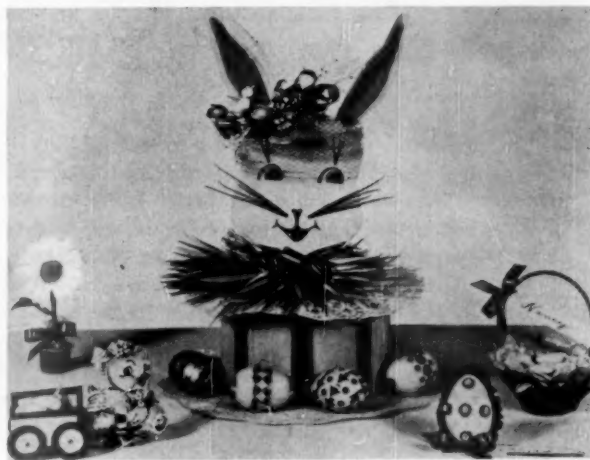
Daisy Favor

Materials: Crepe paper—white, yellow, and moss green; lollypop; large gumdrop; clear cellophane; small souffle cup. Cover a lollypop with green crepe paper and insert end of stick into a large gumdrop, place in center of a five inch square of clear cellophane, draw up around, tie with green ribbon.

Daisy: Cut a strip of white crepe with the grain one and one half inches wide by eight inches long, fold in half twice with the grain. Cut one edge into petals three fourth inches deep, gather straight edge with needle and thread to form a circle and paste to front of lollypop. Cut a one inch circle of yellow and paste in center of flower. Cover a souffle cup with green crepe and stand daisy inside.

Easter Egg Place Card

Materials: Crepe paper—azure blue and American Beauty; lace paper doilies; eggs. Blow egg, then wrap it with azure blue crepe paper. Trim with American Beauty crepe and trim with small designs cut from lace paper doily. Paste end of egg to place card and add ribbon bow. To blow egg, make pinhole in both ends of egg, using a long hat pin. (Make sure pin pierces egg yolk.) Blow insides into a bowl, rinse shell thoroughly and allow to dry. To wrap egg, cut a one quarter inch wide strip of crepe paper through the fold of unopened package. Paste end of strip to egg and wrap diagonally. 🐰



Easter Tables

Here are some bright ideas (many from leftover materials and crepe paper) for making baskets, favors, and table centerpieces, for decorating Easter eggs, and adding extra excitement to egg hunts.

Bunny Jack Horner Centerpiece

Materials: Crepe paper—moss green, white and pink; round box, approximately seven inches in diameter and four inches high; lightweight cardboard; wire; paste; ten-inch doilies.

Cover a round box with green crepe, then cut eight strips each three-quarter inches wide by five inches long and paste (dark side out) at even intervals around box and doily edge around top. **Head:** Cut two silhouettes from white construction paper, cover one side of each with white crepe, place under book until paste is dry to keep flat.

Ears: Cut two large and two small ears from pink crepe, then paste the small ones pink side up, to white side of larger ones and then paste them in place



Twenty-three-foot lighthouse has interior slide.

A COMMUNITY of some thirty thousand people, Montebello, California, has experienced a dearth of equipped children's play areas. It does, however, have a new twenty-acre park site named after a local war hero, Grant Rea Memorial Park. The thought of displaying a well-equipped play area, especially designed for children between the ages of three and twelve years, has been running through my mind the past two years. The plans are finally drawn up and have been officially approved. Rather than turn to the completely abstract in active play-equipment design, as some modern areas have done, or to construct a children's area primarily visual in appeal, we decided to:

- Design a play area for completely active play.
- Keep all units in this area within the realm of a given theme; thereby encouraging active play for these preteen

MR. ROTSCH, versatile director of recreation in Montebello, drew up the plans and designs for Playshore, to be executed by a professional architect. His experience in the ship-building industry and his service in the U. S. Navy have had an obvious influence on Playshore's design. He is also a song writer and was, at one time, municipal music director.

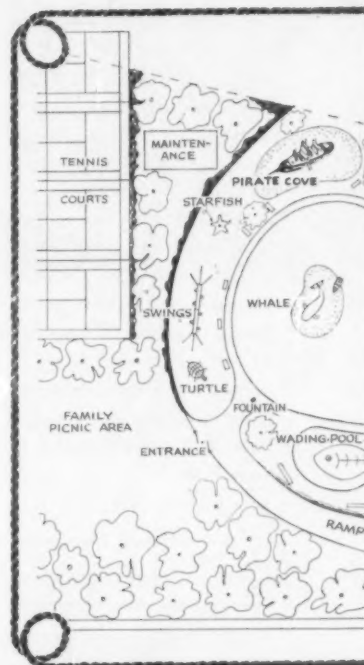


The whale will be a climber twenty feet long.

PLAYSHORE

Montebello, California, plans a delightful play area for the imaginative child where the "theme is the thing." It will bring the seashore to inland boys and girls.

Gene Rotsch



The theme selected was one of the sea.

children by just suggesting a basic theme through the use of design, but still allowing latitude for imaginative play.

The theme selected was that of sea life and the seashore, and, in keeping with the lore of the sea, we titled the area Playshore. The saga of the sea, being almost as old as civilization itself and still as modern as tomorrow, provides us with an ageless theme, with universal appeal. The Playshore area will occupy two-and-a-half acres of park and has been planned and designed by recreation professionals and staff members of the Montebello Department of Recreation.

Unique Approach

One morning last spring I called Joann Treder, the department's supervisor (and also a clever artist), into my office and explained my basic thoughts related to Playshore. We put child appeal and play value first in our thinking; safety factors of each unit were equally important, but were considered second. Our thought was that merely safe play equipment is not enough, for if child appeal is nonexistent, then both time and money have been wasted, as is the case with some of the old-time play equipment. As the design for each unit was selected, the utmost care and attention to detail were given to making it as hazard-free as possible.

Durable materials, such as steel, wood and concrete, have been used throughout these designs. Ease of maintenance was also carefully considered. The entire area will be turfed in durable grasses, with a free-form bed of sand curbed in around each unit.

—A Nautical Play Area



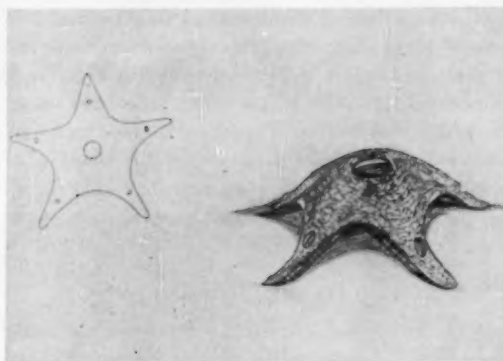
This is a regular playground, not an amusement park.

Encourages Family Attendance

The Playshore area will be completely enclosed in chain-linked fencing and located on two levels. The enclosure will have only one gate for both entry and exit, opening directly onto a large family picnic area. Mother, Daddy, and the rest of the family are also considered at Playshore. The upper level will feature a food-concession building, benches, umbrella tables, and other seating arrangements, which will enable adults to enjoy a snack or cold drink and view the entire play area below without being too close to, or interrupting, the play of their children. Thereby, the youngsters may explore the wonders of Playshore in their own way and still be seen by their parents.

Seventeen Play Units

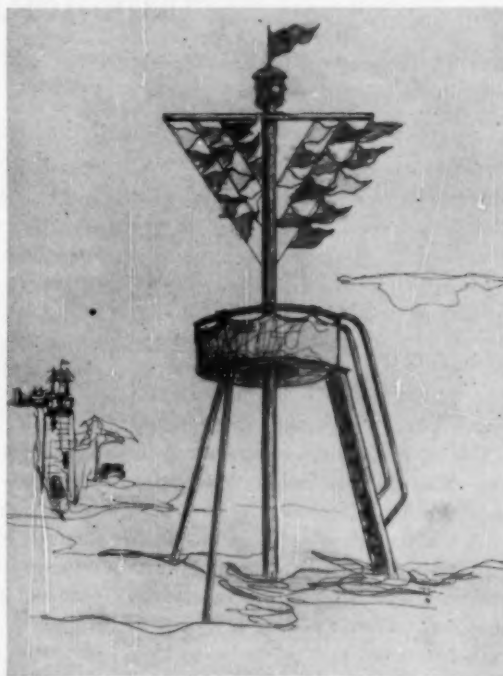
Playshore will boast seventeen units of especially designed play equipment. All but two of these units will be completely original in design—the turtle climber and an oversized merry-go-round, which will be made up by commercial manufacturers. Among these units will be a forty-foot wading pool in the form of a huge goldfish; a twenty-foot whale climber, with accompanying whale boat; a sixty-foot sea serpent, whose tail coils on the upper level, with the last twenty feet being a wave slide from one level to the other; a twenty-three-foot lighthouse with an interior spiral slide, also working from one level to the other; a giant slide, approached by a long ramp with more than a hun-



The intriguing starfish climber, top, is one of Playshore's seventeen specially designed units.



The sea serpent is a sixty-foot slide that amiably brings the children down from the upper level.



Crow's nest, really a pole slide, challenges the youngsters to climb aloft and scan far horizons.

dred square feet of stainless steel slide bed; a crow's nest pole slide; a submarine, fabricated from three-foot-diameter sewer tiles; a twenty-five-foot fire boat; a star fish climber; a forty-foot pirate's ship, fabricated on an actual discarded boat hull; a "Pacific cable" balanced walker; six seahorse swings; a pipe climber in the shape of a turtle; drinking fountains in a giant clamshell, and sea chests or benches built like sea chests. There is ample space left in the area for future additions.

Developmental Plan


Obviously a development of this scope is expensive. We have obtained bids on the various units, and barring too serious future contingencies, we have an accurate estimate. Feeling that both cost-wise and interest-wise, it would be well to involve the whole community, we specifically laid our development plan as a community-development project. We have formed a citizen's committee known as Playshore, Incorporated, which will act as a nonprofit corporation, with a chairman and a six-man board of directors. As designer and director of the department, I am working with this committee on a consultant basis. Service clubs and other civic groups are being invited to sponsor an individual unit financially, or more than one, if they so desire. Thus far, we have yet to encounter a single refusal, as all groups approached have responded immediately, or are in the process of doing so.*

With the knowledge that some groups are, of necessity, in better financial condition than others, owing to size and

* Three thousand dollars have already been pledged.

type of organization, units on Playshore were specially prorated in cost. In this way, even smaller organizations can become a part of Playshore's development at a cost in line with their financial status. The least expensive units are the drinking fountains and benches, which will only cost \$75 each, up through the most expensive, around \$4,000.

No efforts have been spared in laying the groundwork carefully for a good community-relations program. In presenting the Playshore idea to the organizations and public, our office prepared color sketches for each of the units, maps of the entire park site and smaller maps of the Playshore area itself. Duplicates of these and a brochure on the development are given to each organization as it is approached for support. Now in preparation are a complete professional architectural presentation donated by George F. Schreiber, an architect doing another job for Montebello, a quarter-inch scale mock-up of the Playshore area and units. The city government is already in the process of developing the over-all park site and Playshore will be assisted by public funds in the total development. Actual construction is expected to start in early spring, and it is hoped that a large part of the play area will be ready for dedication in June or July, 1958.**

The city and people of Montebello extend an invitation and welcome to all recreation professionals in the nation, who would like to visit us within the next year, to see Playshore. Questions addressed to the recreation department relating to this, or similar developments, will be answered as quickly as possible. 

** Ground breaking will be in mid-April, 1958.

Humaneness for the Elderly

New York's new "homestead" plan emphasizes need for treating the aged as people —not as patients . . .

Other communities might well follow the lead of New York City, where the drabness of life for elderly people who must live in a hospital for want of a better place to go, is being eliminated, according to an announcement by Dr. Howard A. Rusk, member of the Board of Hospitals, during the Institute of the Ill, Handicapped and Homebound at New York University in January. (This is the institute cosponsored by the National Recreation Association and New York University.)

A study of the New York hospitals has revealed that few of these patients still need actual hospitalization. Rather, they stay on because there is no one to care for them, and, up to now, they have had to settle down to an isolated existence in a corner of a ward filled

with really sick people. Here, they have been given a bed, chair, and bedside table for their treasures, and told to keep quiet. They have led a bleak existence, have been awakened every cold gray dawn to be washed and fed with the other patients and otherwise made to fit in with routines for the ill.

At long last, however, these elderly people will have an opportunity to live with dignity, privacy, and some small pleasures. A new type of installation, called "homesteads," along with a more humane consideration of their needs, is being introduced by the city's department of hospitals. The first such installation was opened at Goldwater Memorial Hospital on Welfare Island shortly after the NYU meeting, and this is the first time in the history of the

New York City-state relationship that such a project has been jointly financed.

A section of one floor has been divided into small living units that have been redecorated by professionals and made as cheerfully homelike as possible. Here the oldsters will have individual accommodations and recreational and vocational facilities. No nurses will be on duty, but attendants will be near at hand for emergencies. The doctors will not make "bedside" calls, but will hold office hours, and be on call at all times. The National Recreation Association has been asked to set up the recreation activities for these units. It is hoped that, eventually, there will be three thousand homestead beds in New York City hospitals, bringing that vitally needed "humane touch." ■

Playground Program Aids

The following tips are culled from the experience of others, and are contributed here to stimulate your program with fresh ideas and activities.

"Playground Pandey"

"Pandey" was a small youngster dressed in a panda suit made of terry cloth and papier-mâché. Pandey toured the playgrounds with the safety director and a portable amplifier, delighting youngsters as he demonstrated the safe use of apparatus. Aimed primarily toward the younger set, Pandey was not only an immediate aid, but part of a long-range safety plan. He was also on TV; safety spot announcements, commentary, and 35mm slides of Pandey brought playground safety before the public. Our safety program is also publicized by newspapers and radio. Safety is further emphasized on the playgrounds by means of safety games and puzzles.—JAMES E. BONAHOOM, *safety director, supervisor of special events, Fort Wayne Park Board, Indiana.*

"A Program from Foot Lockers"

Springfield, Missouri, is an all-American city of 100,000 population, with fifteen beautiful parks and all types of play equipment and planned programs at specific times. Two recreation supervisors carry equipment in foot lockers in their cars and travel from park to park. Park supervisors, in the meantime, have created great advance interest in the program by announcing her arrival to the children and what will occur when she comes.

A special-event day is held at alternate parks during the week. In 1957 our first-week theme was Olympic Day, and our supervisors carried this out with crafts, games, contests, singing, storytelling, and so on.

This experiment has met with wonderful results. Our attendance has rap-



Children love antics of "Pandey," who tours playgrounds in the interest of safety to demonstrate the proper use of apparatus. He was also on TV.

Papier-mâché steer is result of the "Program from Foot Lockers."

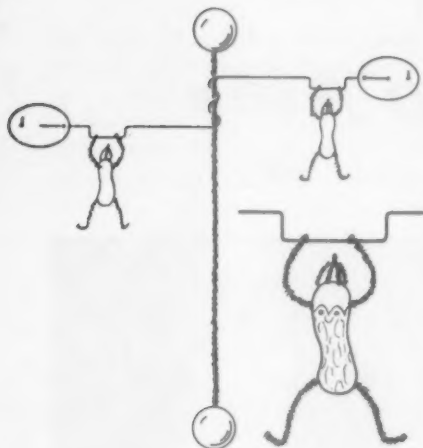


idly increased; the children are well behaved; and the delinquency problem is almost nonexistent. The program ran for eleven weeks, with the following themes: Indian Day, Robin Hood Day, Circus Day, Patriotic Day, Paul Bunyan Day, Christmas in July, Pirate Day, Hobo Day, and Mystery Day.—

ROY BONE, *assistant recreation director, Springfield Public Park Board.*

Special Events—"For Fun"

Notable progress has been made by our staff in promoting and conducting special events on the playgrounds, which we have always considered one of the most important program facets.



These events are the highlights of the week. Children tire of routine programs without an occasional change to hold their interest. A special event offers activity opportunities not usually found in the daily program. Also, it is good publicity for the playground and an excellent method of interesting and recruiting adult volunteers.

On the other hand, this part of the program presents many problems and can actually produce negative results. The inexperienced leader, without adequate guidance, tends to think of it as a contest or competition of some sort; then, whatever the event, the emphasis in the promoting and conducting of the event is on the competition. What better way to foster keen competition than by giving prizes to the winners? Thus the cycle begins, and each succeeding event must offer better prizes, or the children will not think it worthwhile.

In the summer of 1953, we decided to take drastic steps. We talked to the playground supervisors about the real objectives of special events and about the dangers of "bribing" children to participate. We virtually prohibited the use of prizes, and provided each playground supervisor with ribbons to use in their places, with disappointing results.

For the next two summers, our efforts met with similar results; defeat seemed imminent. Playground supervisors simply could not conduct successful special events without excessive use of material incentives; many of the supervisors sympathized with the children.

Early in the spring of 1956, this perennial problem of prizes was discussed at a department staff meeting. We

finally arrived at this point: if three generations of children on a playground have had a pet show every summer, and prizes have always been given for the winners, then the fourth generation must have prizes, too. Social pressure and tradition are mighty forces; if you can't beat them, try going around them. We decided, in other words, to change the *type* of special event instead of trying to change the *method of operation* of familiar ones. Thus carnival night was substituted for the pet show, Indian day for the doll show. While it is impossible and undesirable to remove all elements of competition from such events, the program was planned so that the competitive aspects were minor. Our special events are now successful beyond anything we had hoped. —MARGARET FARR in *Civic Recreation, a recreation bulletin published by Department of Public Recreation, Ottawa, Canada*.

Flying Saucers—Spaceman Toy

Here is a space-age project for your playground crafts or for the whole group on that rainy day indoors. At one of the NRA Northwest District Conferences, in Boise, Idaho, Mrs. Frances Werschkul, craft director in the Portland, Oregon, Park and Recreation Department and member of the Arts and Crafts Committee of the National Recreation Association, demonstrated a playground project everybody loved.

It is simple; can be modified, has movement, and captures the imagination. The following instructions can be changed if the youngsters prefer birds or clowns to spacemen, or corks to rubber balls, or copper wire to pipe cleaners.

Supplies needed:

- 36 inches of 14-gauge wire
- 18 inches of 18-gauge wire
- 2 disks of 32-gauge sheet aluminum, 3-inch diameter
- 2 small peanuts
- 2 small foam rubber balls or corks
- 6 pipe cleaners

Directions: Bend the heavy wire in half, using pliers if necessary. Twist the wires together evenly, so that the width between twists is between one-quarter and one-half inch. You now have one twisted wire about fifteen inches long. Insert the two ends into small foam rubber balls.

For the flying saucers, punch three

small holes in each of the disks. Insert the wire into these holes, so that they lie flat, held by the wire. Just outside the disks, bend the wire into "swings," for the spacemen to hang on (see sketch). Then bend the wire around the pole, going around twice. Experiment here. The disk wire should glide smoothly down the pole, not too fast, not too slowly, and when the pole is reversed, should glide the other way equally well. It must follow the twists in the wire, not slide over them.

The spacemen are peanuts, painted with poster paint. One pipe cleaner is inserted through two holes, carefully punched toward one end of the peanut, for legs; the same is done for arms. The third pipe cleaner is cut in half, and each half inserted into the peanut top for antenna; twisted copper wire at the top adds a space touch.

Bend the arms of each spaceman securely but loosely around the "swing" in the wire, so that he rides down smoothly with the disk. Note that the pipe cleaner legs and arms are twisted.

For Young Archaeologists

Indian treasure, arrowheads, bones, and burial grounds capture the imagination of eight- and nine-year old boys. The leaders of the Midget Section at the Erie YMCA's Camp Sherwin capitalized on the dreams of the little fellows by going just a little further than the customary Indian campfire stories, and actually making a reality out of uncovering an Indian burial ground.

One evening after the little campers had been put to bed the leaders carried bones to a carefully selected spot and buried them. Indian coins (rusty pennies), wampum (the cook's necklace), and arrows (from the archery range) were added. The following day, after a hike the group somehow stumbled on a strange looking mound proclaimed to resemble an Indian grave. After some digging, behold, bones and hidden treasures were uncovered. News of this archeological find spread like wildfire throughout camp, and excavations started wholesale throughout the area. Finally, after a day of exciting activity, forty-eight tired little fellows went home with tall tales of the big discovery.

—ROBERT E. ZECH, director of YMCA Camp Sherwin, Erie, Pennsylvania.

Volunteers-

A Playground Necessity

May Day Walden

TAKE SOME five thousand youngsters of assorted races; add a few thousand adults and senior citizens; distribute over thirty-four playgrounds; head them with trained recreation workers; mix in about two hundred volunteers; and turn 'em all out under warm sunny skies to have fun. That, roughly speaking, lists the basic ingredients of the public recreation program of the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Important in the "recipe" is the volunteer, whose work goes on quietly, but without whom the program would not be nearly as successful. It is only with his help that the recreation program can accommodate so many persons. The skills added by the volunteers give strength and greater variety to the program; their devotion gives inspiration to the paid staff, and their understanding makes them good interpreters of the program to the community.

Almost every recreation area here has two or three or more adults giving volunteer service during the year; and teen-agers help as junior leaders. They serve in various capacities. Some lead clubs or conduct sports leagues; others teach arts and crafts, tell stories, direct plays, lead or accompany singing. Still others help with swimming classes, teach dancing, provide transportation, chaperone groups on hikes, picnics and parties, or serve as counselors

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APRIL 1958

and cooks at camp. During the past year a total of more than two hundred men and women served as volunteers on the public playgrounds. Together they served a total of 22,553 hours.

Who are these volunteers? They come from many walks of life. Some hold full-time jobs in business and professional fields and find volunteering on the playgrounds after working hours provides recreation for themselves as well as for others. Many are mothers and fathers whose own children are participants in the playground activities. There are housewives, too, who enjoy something interesting to do outside of the home, and there are retired persons. The latter, with more leisure at their disposal and the desire to continue to be useful, are among the most faithful workers.

The volunteer who gave the highest number of service hours last year is retired; Karl Greene, an amateur malacologist, who serves as head of the shell department at the Children's Center Museum of Nature Science. Several years ago he presented his private shell collection, one of the largest in the island, to the museum for the children of the city. Another retired person, Hersh Mann, gave 832 hours as secretary of the Honolulu Senior Citizens' Club.

Recruiting

In order to have the needed volunteers, the Honolulu Board of Public Parks and Recreation is constantly on the lookout for persons whose services might be enlisted. There is continuous recruiting to fill vacancies left by volunteers who have moved from the community or who have turned to other interests because their children have grown up. It is from the ranks of the participants in the recreation program that the department first seeks its volunteers. With their enthusiasm and belief in the worth of recreation already kindled, they are naturally the best prospects. Indeed, most of the volunteers were first participants who were then enlisted when they showed certain skills.

The attempt is made, wherever possible, to interest citizens to serve on a neighborhood level. It is felt that they would enjoy most working for and among friends and neighbors. Therefore, recruiting is usually done through the personal contact of the area director with the person who has the desired skill. In talks before service organizations, staff members explain the opportunities for volunteering on the playgrounds. They point out the many types of volunteers needed, not only in the activity skills, but in such roles as leader of young people's groups, chaperones, and judges at special events.

The city's volunteer service bureau also occasionally makes referrals to the recreation department, but experience has shown that persons so referred do not usually remain long because they do not have the intense enthusiasm of former participants.

Orientation

Orientation of the volunteer takes place in two parts. On the department level, a representative of the administrative

The referee of this game works during the day as a painter. Volunteers come from many walks of life, inspire entire staff with their enthusiasm and devotion.

staff meets with him to interpret the philosophy and function of the recreation program. An effort is made also to inculcate pride in the service he can give on the part of the new volunteer.

On the area level the orientation is assisted by the director who explains the content of the playground's program, the make-up of the community to be served, and the resources available.

When there is need to train and orient many volunteers at a time, such as preceding the summer fun program, a workshop is conducted by the department. This consists of nine three-hour sessions. Short courses in arts and crafts, nature science, and music are presented by specialists.

The emotional and social needs of youngsters, the aims and purposes of the department, and the responsibility of the volunteer and the department to each other are discussed.

Recognition

The pleasure derived from working with children is their greatest reward, say the volunteers. However, formal recognition is given to them once a year, usually at the end of the summer fun session. This is done at a community function, such as a dinner or a dance, where, in a special recognition ceremony, recreation commissioners express the gratitude of the board and present the volunteers with certificates. Recognition is also given at area programs, and there has been some feeling that this is more meaningful because the volunteers are personally known to those present.

In addition to certificates, material gifts are sometimes presented. In a few instances where the standard of leadership, skill, and hours of service warrant it, partial monetary compensation is given by the department. The contribution of the volunteers is also acknowledged frequently by the agency in its publicity releases and pictures.

Junior Leaders

Recently, increased attention has been given to the development of *junior* leaders. They are participants in the




This group of volunteers is learning how to use flannel board pictures to illustrate stories during a workshop.

program, twelve years of age and older, who have shown qualities of leadership, sincerity, dependability, and resourcefulness. They are generally leaders in their interest groups and are used to hold their respective groups together.

The young people are given experiences that will develop leadership and responsibility. They work closely with the playground directors and perform such services as standing by when younger children are taking swimming lessons, accompanying hikers, assisting at camp and sports events, preparing exhibits, presenting nature science programs, and serving as *docents* at the Children's Museum. The junior leaders also share in program planning.

These leaders are given some kind of identification to wear—a particular type of cap or shirt. At the end of the summer term the department sponsors a party for all of them and presents a gift to each in the form of some useful school article. During the past year there were 182 junior leaders who each gave more than 75 hours of service, their total number of hours being 34,488.

The importance of developing junior leaders lies not only in the services they give now but also in the hope that many future adult volunteers will come from their ranks. 

New Ideas for Games

Source materials can help build your games program with a minimum outlay of time and effort. Why start every program from scratch? New games to keep up flagging playground interest work on this idea of integration of innovation: (1) it is easier to teach a game that has a basis in another game, already known, than to teach an entirely new one (and children's interest span is short); (2) you can arouse an interest in more than one existing game at a time by learning partial skills of both.

Take bowling and golf as an example. Combined, these two games form an interesting and inexpensive

variation for the playground. The new game is simple. A golf ball is putted down a prepared lane into a set-up of ten miniature bowling pins. Score is kept by the strike and spare system on regular bowling cards.

Where did the idea come from? A toy and novelty manufacturing company catalogue. Many such novelty catalogues have games and ideas easily converted to playground or crafts class use. Supply catalogues are often overlooked because recreation leaders order them only to answer some specific need. Send out a dozen postcards to playground equipment manufacturers for their catalogues and leaf through them. I'll bet a soggy soybean you come up

with more than one idea you can use in your program . . . like the "bat-bak" table tennis outfit, table bowling, tabletop shuffleboard, and others.

Each might be ideal for a limited play space or a special age group. One or two persons of little skill may play.

"Bat-bak" is especially interesting to a director who sees several table tennis outfits laying idle day after day for any of a dozen reasons. The table tilts up vertically at one end, so actually the player can hit the ball against a wall and return his own hit; or two can play, alternating hits. Space requirements: negligible.—BOB LOEFFELBEIN, Superintendent of River Road Park and Recreation District, Eugene, Oregon.

Trench Fireplaces

Natalie Olmsted

*A day camp
trains for special
camping skills*

CAMPING is an accepted way of life in the Northwest. In order to prepare youngsters for the safe enjoyment of the woods and mountains, therefore, the park commission of Seattle, Washington, sponsors and conducts training in camp skills by providing opportunities to learn and practice in day camp. Take fire making, for example. Trench fireplaces, built up waist high, so that early practice is safe, and no skirts or eyebrows get singed, offer the chance to learn how, the fun of using the fire for cooking, and the adaptation of these fires to the campfire making and cooking that will come later on camping trips.

Such lessons are carefully planned and cover all types of fires. An outline of a typical lesson plan follows. Such instruction, accompanied by demonstration and practice, could be applied to a local playground program, as well as to a day camp.

Recreation Instructor and Camp Counselor Guide

Subject: *Trench Fires*

Day Time Camp Area Location
Counselor Assigned

MEMORANDUM: Fires have many uses; they may cook food, heat water, destroy rubbish, or serve to warm and cheer the camper.

A good day camper learns to build a foundation fire, and then learns to build it into the kind of fire that will serve his purpose best.

A good fire is built in a safe place, is kept under control at all times, and is completely extinguished when no longer needed.

Equipment Needed:

Trench fire: This is to provide a larger number of campers safe access to the blaze of the fire; provide concentrated heat in a controlled area; give a versatile camper the opportunity to barbecue or grill large pieces of meat or other food.

LESSON PLAN AND OUTLINE:

1. Several types of stone material may be used in the con-

MISS OLMSTED, district recreation supervisor, is directly responsible for the day camp program of the Seattle Park Commission, Seattle, Washington, has developed the bulk of the training material used in it.

struction of a trench fire: Masonry—cement or fire brick—and natural stone—lava rock, granite (sandstone explodes with heat).

2. Location for construction:

- Select a location where fire hazard is limited
- Select location accessible to other campers
- Select level ground area
- Select area most apt to be somewhat protected from the wind, regardless of its direction

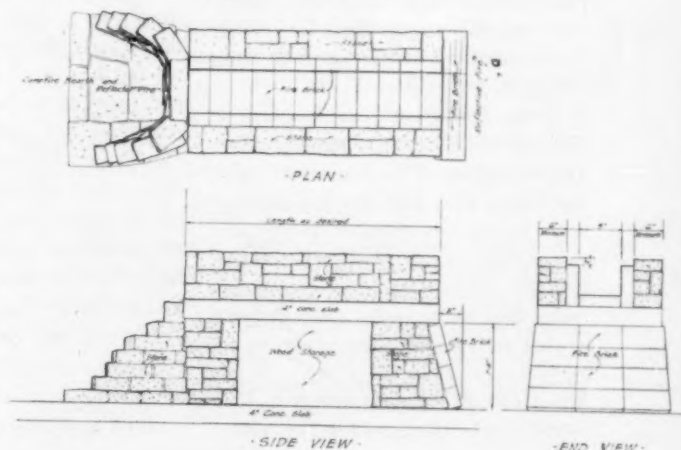
3. Execution of construction of trench: Dig a rectangular trench large enough to allow for the lining with stone and ample space for good fire. After trench has been dug and stones have been placed very close together, line the sides and floor of the trench, mortar (if available) may be poured behind stones. The same principles are involved in the off-the-ground type; this is relative to the size and lining of firebox space.

4. Preparing the fire—what to use:

- Tinder**—material that catches fire from a match. This should be in pieces not any thicker than a match but longer, such as shavings or fuzz sticks, fine twigs (especially from evergreen trees); tops of bushes or weeds, pieces of pine pitch (paper may be used but is used *only in emergencies*). Beware of material that flares up quickly.
- Kindling**—material that catches fire from tinder—such as good dry sticks and twigs graduated in size, just bigger than tinder up to sizes as large as the thumb (they should be from six to twelve inches long; larger pieces may be split for kindling).
- Fuel**—the real fire material—includes good firm pieces of wood graduated in size from pieces bigger than kindling to good-sized logs. This selection depends on use. Charcoal is often used as fuel.

Trench fire at this point is available for cooking uses.

TRENCH-FIRE BOXES





Lamadaca chieftains have been powwowing about day's events. Feathers are awarded for outstanding merit.



Every Indian knows how to construct a fire, of course. Note the council circle totem pole in background.

The Indians Are Day Camping

Mary E. L. Sawyer



THERE is a colorful day camp in St. Petersburg, Florida, with Indian lore as its theme—Camp Lamadaca, on the shores of Lake Maggiore. Its Indian-sounding name was formed by combining the first two letters of *L*Ake *M*aggiore *D*AY *C*amp.

Camp Lamadaca was founded in 1949, and in 1954 it was admitted to the Florida section of the American Camping Association. Although it is operated only during the summer playground season, it was recognized by the association for its outstanding program and leadership, giving some sixty children of nine to fourteen years of age an op-

portunity to enjoy a day in camp, with a regular camp schedule.

Campers are required to be registered at and to attend the community playgrounds jointly sponsored by the Pinellas County school system and the city recreation department. In fact, the staff at the day camp is made up of personnel from both the schools and the recreation department.

The youngsters are brought to camp by Heap Big Yellow Horse (the school bus). Every morning it gallops up and disgorges a hord of prospective Indians. After the war whoops calm down around the council circle, the day's planned program starts. "Big Cap" bugles formation for flag raising, salute, and the Pledge of Allegiance. Buddies are then paired off for the conducted tour of the nature trail. "Big Cap" can call the alligators from away out in the middle of the lake (always a surprise and delight to everyone) and he knows just where the white herons nest and the great eagle circles. The many trees, shrubs, flowers—even poison ivy—are marked and identified to give the La-

madaca Indians a better understanding of Florida flora, with a bit of fauna thrown in.

Archers go out into the great open spaces. Fishermen hunt for worms and go angling off the pier. A bamboo grove can be raided for a fine fishing pole, and the eager beavers are taught how to rig a pole and how to fish, with excellent results. Little cans with fish of all sizes and colors, and crabs, put to sleep and wrapped up, are taken home as souvenirs.

Around 11:30 the mob usually gets so hungry that "Big Cap" bugles first call to the heap big feast. There is never need for a second or last call. The first day at camp, each child brings his own feedbag. On the next day all go into a huddle and come up with a stew, and the chow line is loud and lusty, as it forms with a beating of plates and pans. The next day is cookout day, when campers learn safety in fire building, how to cook the food they bring from home and correct use of ax, hatchet and knives.

Each day there is something "extra-

MISS SAWYER is senior supervisor of the recreation department in St. Petersburg.

special" for the Indians: water safety lessons, first aid, new games, group singing contests, native crafts, tent pitching, and rope knotting.

Every year five Indian tribes are formed: *Seminoles*, whose color is yellow and whose symbol is the sun; *Mohicans*, whose color is blue and symbol, the blue god; *Blackfoots*, whose color is green and symbol, the buffalo; *Sioux*, whose color is turquoise and symbol, the white heron; and *Apaches*, whose color is red and symbol, the thunderbird.

One of the most impressive things at the camp, and the center of interest, is the totem pole made of a palm tree trunk which stands in the center of the council circle. Each week a different tribe puts its Indian symbol and color on the pole. At the end of the season the pole is completed and makes a colorful and decorative show piece.

Feathers of many colors are awarded for outstanding merits—red for the best tent pitched by the warriors, green

for first and biggest fish, blue for the most artistic headband, yellow for the highest score in archery and races. The purple feather is the greatest prize a Lamadaca Indian can win—for good citizenship and for being the best all-round camper.

On the last day of every camp week a big powwow is held in the council circle—with Indian dances and songs, Indian wrestling, and the passing around of the medicine stick—an impressive ceremony. Feathers are awarded at this time. The counselors are presented with a feather from each tribe as a gesture of appreciation from the campers.

The camp ends for the summer with all tribes and their chiefs and warriors and Indian princesses coming together, wearing their warpaint and feathers, for a mass powwow to make peace and live in harmony.

Each chief, with the help of one brave of his tribe, competes in tent (wigwam) pitching and each princess shows her skill in fire building. It is an interesting

contest to watch. Winners are given prize war bonnets of many feathers and shell necklaces. The chief and princess winning these two contests become the chief and princess of all the tribes and reign for the day.

Then there is the great thanksgiving feast—hot dogs, Indian bread, dug roots (carrot sticks and potato chips) and firewater (pop). Each Indian finishes with the pipe of peace (pop-sickle).

The climax of the powwow is the "Legend of the Buried Treasure of Lamadaca." Each tribe goes out in force to follow given clues to find the treasure to be divided among members of the tribe finding it. After all, a jar of hard candy can give heap happiness!

The end comes, the last call sounds, the tribes return to their home hunting grounds, to show off their feathers and relive their many memories.

A day camp, along with summer playgrounds, is a truly big, important activity program for boys and girls. ■

Notes for the Administrator

Restricted Title Lands Not for Parks

"When funds are earmarked for parks, they can't be spent on land with a restricted title," said the city council of Buena Park, California—and the school district superintendent protested, "This is a restriction imposed by the state; without it we cannot sell the property."

Thus the three five-acre park sites adjacent to elementary schools were turned down by the councilmen. They believed that guaranteeing school youngsters the right to play on the sites during school hours jeopardized future plans for development of the park lands—they should be taken clear and free or not at all.—*Park Maintenance*, August 1957.

Court Decisions

REFRESHMENT STAND IN PARK WITHIN RESIDENCE DISTRICT: The Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board had developed a public park and picnic area, including a bathhouse, parking area, and so on, in a single-family residence district on Lake Erie in a suburban town, and now proposed to add a small refreshment stand to these facilities. The town of Bay Village authorities objected, but the court upheld the proposed addition.

In the opinion, the court held, that the refreshment stand was necessary to afford the public maximum enjoyment of the recreational facilities and was a necessary part of the facilities provided. The proposed stand was therefore held to be permitted as an accessory use under the local zoning law, and not held a nuisance. *Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District v. City of Bay Village*, 141 North Eastern (2d) 769 (Court of Appeals (intermediate court), April 24, 1957).

ZONING

The December, 1957 issue of *The American City* reported on a zoning case:

"Certiorari brought to review action of Zoning Board of Review in approving variance permitting supermarket, drug-store and bank in residence zone across street from elementary and junior high schools. For many years lot had been used as playground by children. Court ruled that no vested right to such use had been created, upheld variance and commended Board for its clear presentation of reasons for approval. *School Committee v. Zoning Board*, 133A.2d 734 (Supreme Court, July 17, 1957.)"

Instruction Surplus

In 1956, when a new steel swimming pool, fifty by one hundred and twenty-five feet, costing \$96,000, was installed on a former school site in St. Joseph, Missouri, interest in swimming instruction increased so much that it was necessary to establish an eight-station assembly line. Over one thousand people were registered, with the Red Cross paying the entire cost of instruction. ■



Traveling Playlots

Hamilton, Ontario, answers the play-space problem.

Florence Meiler

NEW SURVEYS, large tracts of land annexed by the city! A swiftly growing population! This was the position faced by Hamilton, Ontario, in the early 1950's. Sudden expansion created the problem of playgrounds to service new areas.

The idea of Traveling Playlots was born in the mind of Hamilton's then director of recreation A. G. "Andy" Ley. Since playgrounds with standard equipment to cover these areas adequately would be too costly, traveling playlots seemed to be worth a try. The general plan was to provide a trained playground leader to cover an area. This leader, working with a committee of mothers, could choose four sites suitable as play space for a small group of children. The leader would divide her time—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday—among the four locations, going two half-days to each. On Friday morning the leaders would meet with the recreation department staff to exchange ideas and discuss problems, while Friday afternoons would be taken up with meetings of parent committees.

The first step was to discuss this with the parents. In the early spring of 1953 members of the recreation department staff spoke to home and school groups, who received the idea enthusiastically and set up local committees. These committees toured each neighborhood with a staff person, to choose the sites.

MISS MEILER is director of recreation, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Vacant lots, school grounds, backyards, and front lawns were available. When the playlot leaders were chosen, they met with the parent committees and together planned the weekly schedule.

Each leader was allocated craft supplies, storybooks, and, armed with her knowledge of children's games, started out the first day of this experiment. The leaders traveled on bicycles and carried their supplies in shopping bags, visiting one spot in the morning, and another in the afternoon. Schedules were printed and issued to all mothers so that they could keep the children posted as to when the leader would be in their district.

There were problems. Some locations had to be changed, more craft materials were required than for a standard playground, and quite often the large number of children and the wide age range made it necessary to divide the group. Volunteer assistance from one of the mothers' committees helped to solve this problem. Generous donations of scrap materials, tables, refreshments on hot days, cake and fudge for sales, emphasized many times how important and vital the mothers' committee was to the operation. The mothers saw the problems and did something about it.

Five summers have come and gone. In 1954, the number of locations was increased from four to six, and in 1956 it was increased again to eight areas. The number of playlots visited by each leader varies from two to four. The program, too, has grown, and now in-

Play area can be a backyard, front lawn, vacant lot, schoolground, as long as there is any group of youngsters to be served.


cludes crafts, storytelling, group games, sports, music, picnics, swim parties, and special events, such as costume parties, pet shows, and carnivals.

Dundurn Museum, originally a seventy-two room castle, is a favorite haunt of the children. Every group makes at least one trip to the museum, where they particularly like to descend to the "dungeons" in the dark, damp basement. Combined with a picnic in the park, it is a trip anticipated with great enthusiasm.

One summer day, in a certain district, the milkman making his early morning rounds was amazed to see brilliantly colored flowers sprouting from all the empty bottles he picked up. These colorful additions to his daily routine were made by the children at the traveling playlot, from milk bottle caps and construction paper, and announced "One quart please," and so on. We often wonder if he ever knew who "planted" all these gay flowers.

Much of the success of the traveling playlots is due to the specially chosen leaders. Since, of necessity, they are working without constant supervision, they must have a sense of responsibility, initiative, organizing ability, a love of children, and considerable training in the skills and teaching of crafts and games. The words of a traveling playlot leader, who had three year's part time experience on a regular playground, are frequently heard: "I feel that this summer was one of the most enjoyable that I have spent. . . ."

The name "traveling playlots" is really not correct, since it is the leader who travels. However, their chief advantage is that they can be established wherever there is a group of children, without a large capital outlay for land or equipment. In any succeeding year they can be conducted in a different spot if necessary, for there is no heavy apparatus to be moved.

The leader, with her bag of supplies, merely rides her bicycle down a different street, gathering the children around her, and starts to work. 

Los Angeles

Pilot Study of Playgrounds



ADEQUATE REPORTING of services rendered at public recreation centers has long presented a serious problem. In an effort to clarify the services offered at playgrounds and to provide a method by which they can be adequately portrayed on a statistical reporting form, a pilot study was carried on at two city playgrounds in Los Angeles under the sponsorship of the Youth Services Division of the Welfare Planning Council.*

In outlining this study consideration was given to four dimensions of public recreation service: facility, leadership or staff, program, and participation or patrons. The interrelationship but uniqueness of each of these dimensions was recognized and an attempt made to delineate the significance of each of these factors. Two hypotheses were formulated for the study:

- Definite activity areas or zones exist on a public playground in which the kind of activities engaged in by staff are distinct from the other areas.
- The relative amount of leadership given by staff varies inversely to the distance of the activity area from the office. Variables in playground settings were recognized, but an attempt was made in this study to test the validity of these two hypotheses.

Two playgrounds were used, comparable in size and representative of good program content and staff. The communities served were quite different, however; one having a middle-income, Caucasian population; the other, a low-income area with a majority of the residents of either Mexican-American or Negro extraction. Trained observers were assigned to the two playgrounds for a period of one week to record the activities of staff and patrons. Data were recorded on regular and part-time personnel. Each observer was assigned to a specific staff member and in addition "floater observers" were assigned to each facility to gather data on the patrons in zones by age and by activity. Time recording was on an hour-to-hour basis, with actual minutes of leadership activity recorded.

Four playground zones were recognized. Zone I includes the office building and the indoor facilities together with the office porch area. Zone II surrounds Zone I and includes facilities and equipment for activities and games of low organization. Zone III includes the field spaces with facilities for team games and sports and provision for spectator facilities. Zone IV is the fringe area and embraces facilities and areas usually found on the perimeter; such as,


benches, picnic tables, tennis courts, oldsters' club house, and the like.

The findings are briefly summarized as follows:

With respect to staff services, "direct services to patrons" and "indirect services to patrons" received almost equal emphasis by staff at both playgrounds. Less than five per cent of staff time was spent on "services to the community." "Direct services to patrons" were rendered by staff to a far greater degree in Zone I than in any other. Staff spent more time with scheduled groups than with other types of participants. At both playgrounds over half of the time devoted to direct services was spent with scheduled groups. Significant differences existed in the leadership practices of male and female staff. Women workers spent far more time than men in giving direct services to patrons and in work with scheduled groups and individuals. They spent less than two per cent of their time outside Zone I. No significant correlation appeared between the time staff spent in giving services within the four zones, and the amount of patron participation taking place in the zones. Patterns of service and of patron participation indicated a large number of the playground users received little or no leadership from staff.

The findings verify the hypothesis that definite zones exist on public playgrounds and that the activities of staff in each zone differ from those carried out in other zones. The second hypothesis that the amount of staff service given in each zone varied inversely to its distance from the office was not fully confirmed.

A significant observation was that the study's findings revealed no correspondence between activities engaged in by leaders and those carried out by participants; that is, at any time it was not possible to infer from the participation pattern at either playground what the leadership activity pattern would be. This finding would seem to indicate that information gathered in report forms, for example, as to the pattern of patron participation at playgrounds, does not adequately reflect the amount and nature of staff services being rendered to the patrons. Thus more information must be obtained regarding the manner in which staff members carry out their jobs if an adequate statistical reporting system is to be achieved.

One conclusion resulting from the study is that there is need to know more about what different types of participants desire to do at recreation facilities. "Determining the recreation patterns of persons in terms of age groupings, income level, cultural affiliation, and so on would provide a partial answer to this question. But, further research asking participants directly what they desire from recreation programs should be attempted in the future." 

* *Public Recreation Service Units—Measuring Youth Services*, Vol. 3, by Norman P. Miller and Irving Piliavin. Available from Research Department, Welfare Planning Council, Los Angeles Region. Special Report Series No. 45, March, 1956.



The skillful leader exposes young people to many interests so that they can have a substantial basis in choosing activities. Here, young book critics give broadcast to provoke reading interest.

Youth Interest Studies

THE GROWING CONCERN about the ways in which children and young people spend their leisure time and the increasing importance of providing wholesome recreation opportunities for this age group have prompted many local surveys of youth interests and activities. Description of some of the findings in three such studies follows. These were conducted in Richmond, Virginia, Stamford, Connecticut, and on a nation-wide basis by the Boy Scouts of America.

The Richmond Study

A recreation study* in Richmond, Virginia, inquired about the free-time interests, hobbies, and activities of junior and senior high school students. Separate data were compiled for students in each of four districts of the city. The purpose of this study was to secure data that would enable local recreation agencies to evaluate their programs and provide additional services as needed in various sections of the city.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. In one district, watching TV and listening to radio or records were the activities checked most often by boys and girls as a major use of free time on school days. On week ends this activity declined and movie attendance increased. Play at a playground or park was checked most often as use of after-school time. During the summer a surprisingly large percentage go to the beach, particularly nonwhite girls. The same general patterns were reported in a second district, although the week-end drop was in favor of visiting or playing with friends. "Working on a job" led as an afternoon activity.

Among white boys and Negro girls in a third district, watching TV or listening to radio or records were the ranking leisure-time activities during the school year. Among nonwhite boys and white girls, helping around the home

ranked first. On week ends going to the movies ranked first among boys; helping around the home, among girls of both races. Visiting, playing with friends, or helping around home ranked high among all groups after school. During the summer a paid job ranked first among boys, helping at home among girls. A large percentage go to the beach, especially of nonwhite girls.

In a fourth district, TV, radio, and records, visiting friends, and helping at home held first place during the school year. Week ends, the leading activity is going to the movies. Here again a large percentage checked visits to the beach; seventy-four per cent of the Negro girls list this activity as a major use of leisure time.

Interests and Hobbies. In recording their interests and hobbies, the activities listed were the three checked by junior high school students as representing present activities. (See Figure 1.)

The study of activities that the junior high school group would like to engage in produced these. (See Figure 2.)

The study reveals that baseball (which, in this, apparently includes softball) is by far the most common activity in which boys of both races participate. It is among the three leading activities reported by all eight groups of boys. Swimming is next in importance, having a place in six of the

Figure 1

District	Boys		Girls	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
Central	47% baseball 35% hunting 33% model building	69% baseball 47% swimming 46% dancing	49% swimming 45% movies 43% dancing	60% dancing 47% movies 39% music
West	73% baseball 60% swimming 49% fishing	83% baseball 51% fishing 45% swimming	60% swimming 49% dancing 45% movies	69% dancing 52% baseball 44% movies
East	67% baseball 61% fishing 56% hunting	75% baseball 58% swimming 37% dancing	61% baseball 48% swimming 42% dancing	35% baseball 29% dancing 22% movies
South	67% baseball 64% fishing 55% swimming	77% baseball 49% movies 45% swimming	62% baseball 53% swimming 48% movies	45% baseball 36% dancing 32% knitting

* *Richmond Recreation Study*, sponsored by the Richmond, Virginia, Neighborhood Councils in cooperation with the Richmond Department of Recreation and Parks, 1955.

eight groups, including the Negro boys in all four sections. Fishing ranks third, appearing in four of the eight boys' lists of present activities.

Among junior high school girls, dancing appears in all but one of the lists of present activities, followed by movies, which appear in six—three white and three Negro groups. Baseball is in five of the eight lists and, surprisingly, it tops the other present activities with four of the eight girls groups. Swimming appears in all of four lists for white students, but in no Negro group. Music and knitting have a prominent place in one each of the two lists of activities engaged in by Negro girls.

Those desired by junior high school students are more diverse than the activities commonly engaged in, and the activities desired by boys and girls are more similar than are the activities in which the two sexes now take part. Roller skating, for example, which is largely lacking in the top-ranking current activities, appears among the top three desired by five groups; picnics, hayrides, and fishing by four groups; hunting and art by three—Negroes constitute all three groups wanting art.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: In one district all groups, except the white girls, checked watching TV, or listening to the radio or records first for their free time on school days. Both white and nonwhite girls study and help at home. During the summer the boys listed "working at a paid job," while the girls reported "going to the beach."

In the second district most white boys and girls listed studying and the majority of nonwhite boys and girls specified TV, radio, and records for major use of free time on school days. Movies formed the most attractive week-end activity. During the summer, a paid job was most often checked by boys, and movies by the girls. The beach attracted both.

In the third district white boys and girls and Negro boys checked TV, radio, and records; Negro girls listed helping at home, as most frequent school-day activities. A paid job was the leading week-end activity among nonwhite boys; the movies among the other three groups. During the summer, work was ranked first by boys and movies by girls, but both go to the beach.

In the fourth district white boys enjoy TV, radio, and records on school days; nonwhite boys and white girls study and nonwhite girls help around the house. Movies were rank-

ed highest by both boys and girls. Boys listed a paid job and girls going to the beach as primary summer activities.

Interests and Hobbies. The activities listed in Figure 3 are the three most frequently checked by senior high school students as representing current interests and hobbies.

Baseball also leads among high school boys, appearing in the top three in all eight lists of present activities. Fishing is reported in all four districts by white boys and swimming in three; neither activity, however, appears in the top activities of Negro boys. On the other hand, four Negro groups list movies, as compared with only one white group. Dancing appears in three of the four Negro lists, but is not a top-ranking activity among white boys.

Movies and dancing are the outstanding current activities of senior high school girls, appearing in every list. Swimming is a popular activity among three of the four white groups, but is not engaged in widely by Negro girls. Watching TV has high ranking in three of the eight groups.

Swimming is the activity most desired by boys and girls in senior high school, as it appears in thirteen out of the sixteen lists. Tennis appears more often than any of the other activities, ranking high in six of the eight boys' lists. Four of the white groups want hayrides, but this is not given a high ranking by the Negro boys or girls. Roller skating is the next most desired activity. Movies appear in only one of the sixteen high school lists of desired activities. There would seem to be a strong emphasis on sports among these

Figure 3

District	Boys		Girls	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
Central	71% baseball 52% fishing 48% swimming	60% baseball 44% dancing 43% movies	68% movies 58% dancing 52% swimming	68% dancing 39% movies 33% talks, boy-girl relationships
West	50% baseball 41% fishing 31% movies	66% baseball 54% movies 45% dancing	59% swimming 48% movies 46% dancing	72% dancing 39% music 38% movies
East	82% baseball 58% fishing 53% swimming	71% baseball 49% movies 43% dancing	54% movies 50% dancing 41% watching TV	49% movies 48% dancing 32% watching TV
South	63% baseball 48% swimming 44% fishing	60% baseball 60% watching sports 42% movies	52% movies 51% dancing 46% swimming	63% dancing 63% movies 30% watching TV

Activities They Would Like to Do

Figure 4

District	Boys		Girls	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
Central	12% swimming 10% fishing 7% roller skating	19% hunting 13% swimming 12% music	19% hayrides 19% knitting 16% tennis	23% swimming 23% watching sports 16% music
West	10% hayrides 8% fishing 6% art	38% hunting 26% fishing 24% swimming	9% swimming 9% tennis 8% roller skating	23% swimming 16% roller skating 13% movies
East	12% swimming 11% hayrides 10% fishing	12% tennis 9% knitting 8% model building	12% dramatics 10% tennis 9% swimming	32% swimming 16% tennis 16% sewing, needlecraft
South	10% swimming 8% hayrides 7% fishing	24% tennis 20% swimming 13% fishing	21% roller skating 20% reading 16% swimming	22% swimming 15% dramatics 13% tennis

Figure 2

District	Boys		Girls	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
Central	11% picnics 11% tennis 7% swimming	29% swimming 16% art 16% hunting	35% hayrides 23% dancing 18% swimming	26% swimming 18% dramatics 16% picnics
West	11% swimming 8% fishing 8% hayrides	19% swimming 12% table tennis 9% art	13% swimming 13% roller skating 11% picnics	13% swimming 8% picnics 8% tennis
East	13% swimming 10% hunting 10% roller skating	23% hunting 17% swimming 17% fishing	25% hayrides 21% swimming 19% dancing	18% hayrides 15% art 15% swimming
South	27% swimming 9% roller skating 7% movies	13% swimming 11% baseball 9% badminton	22% swimming 14% fishing 14% roller skating	57% swimming 34% roller skating 28% fishing

youngsters, which shows up throughout the lists. It is interesting to note that reading is not listed *once*.

The Stamford Study

In 1956, the Recreation and Group Work Division of the Stamford Community Council undertook a study which had the following purposes:

- To determine how the young people of Stamford were spending out-of-school time.
- To learn whether they needed or desired additional facilities and programs.
- To determine the characteristics of those young people served by the various agencies and to compare them with those of youth who did not participate in agency programs.
- To help guide youth-serving agencies in program planning and other aspects of their work.

The information was secured by personal interviews with students selected by a random sampling of the pupils in the eighth through the twelfth grades of the public, private, and parochial schools. Two hundred and fifty-four young people were interviewed by trained volunteers who made use of written guides and questionnaires developed with the help of a public relations firm. The following findings were reported in *Survey of Youth Activities* issued by the council in 1957:

- Eighty-five per cent take part in activities sponsored by local recreation and group-work agencies; sixty-three per cent in church-sponsored programs; sixty-one per cent in special interest clubs and formal independent clubs. Thirty-seven per cent work for pay on an average of eleven hours per week.
- Girls spend more time alone as they grow older and relatively less time with their family; boys spend less time alone as they get older and less time with their families, but more time in group association with older boys.
- The time a young person spends watching television decreases sharply between grades eight and twelve.

The highest participation, ninety-three per cent, is in the middle of five socio-economic groups. Boy Scout activity is five times greater in the highest, as compared with the lowest status group.

- An extremely wide range was indicated in activities "liked best." The most frequently mentioned was dancing, with nearly thirteen per cent of all replies, followed by basketball, reading, ice skating, swimming, parties, and bowling, in that order. Enjoyment of the activity itself rather than for self-improvement or relationship with others seemed to be the primary influence in determining preference.
- In stating reasons for failure to participate in desired activities, sixty per cent listed facilities not available; thirteen per cent lack of time; and eight per cent transportation difficulties and financial reasons.

National Boy Scout Study

*A Study of Adolescent Boys***, conducted for the Boy Scouts of America by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, contains much information of

interest to recreation workers. The report represents the findings in one of a number of studies undertaken by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America "to clarify the needs of adolescent boys and the proper function of youth agencies in serving these needs." Among the specific questions, answers for which were sought in the study, are: How much leisure time do boys have? What are boys' principal leisure activities? What do they most like to do? How important a part do voluntary group memberships play in boys' lives? What kinds of groups are most attractive to boys? As might be expected, the objectives were achieved with varying degrees of success. The report contains a great variety of statistics based upon interviews with six hundred and sixty boys. They cover many aspects of their use of leisure time. Of special interest are the lists of activities most broadly participated in and most enjoyed by boys who do them, as follows:

<i>Maximum Participation</i>	<i>Most Enjoyed</i>
Going to movies	Swimming
Swimming	Hunting
Listening to the radio	Working with cars, motorcycles
Playing baseball	Playing baseball
Watching television	Playing basketball
Playing basketball	Playing football
Fishing	Fishing
Reading	Camping, hiking
Going to parties	Playing pool, billiards
Playing football	Horseback riding

Among the major findings of the study are that most boys in the age range of fourteen to sixteen years have had experience with a good variety of leisure activities and that most of them share some or a few of their leisure activities with their parents.

The section dealing with group membership indicates that three boys in ten belong to no clubs or organizations; that most boys judge the groups they belong to on the basis of the interest level of the activities offered; that boys suggest sports and games, outdoor activities and social activities most frequently when asked to indicate the kinds of activities they would like a club to offer. Nine out of ten boys think a group of adolescent boys and girls should have some adult leadership, but their notions for the role of the adult vary widely.

Many of the other findings merit careful study by all who are concerned with planning recreation programs for young people. ■

The children now love luxury, they have bad manners, contempt for authority, they show disrespect for elders, and love chatter in place of exercise. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize over their teachers.

—SOCRATES (2000 years ago)

** Boy Scouts of America, New Brunswick, N. J., 1955.

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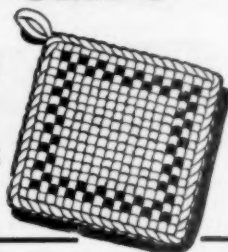
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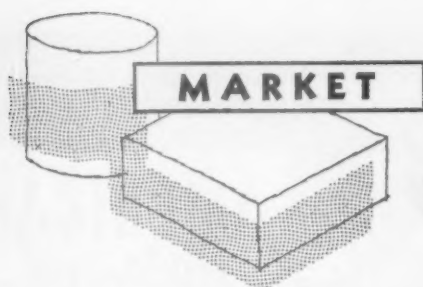
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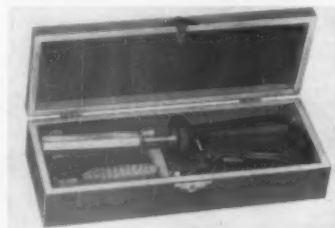
◆ Since RECREATION for April is devoted to playgrounds this column will include items we hope you will find useful, and fun, in your playground programs.



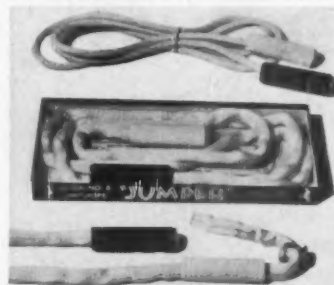
less steel, rustproof bedway. It comes in three sizes: 4', 6', and 8' high, with 8', 12', and 16' long chute. The J. E. Burke Company, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and New Brunswick, New Jersey.

◆ Keeping athletic equipment from straying has always been a problem. A compact, complete branding-iron kit has been developed, designed to lessen the loss or theft of equipment from playgrounds and schools, called the Voit BK20 Thermostatic Branding Iron. The iron works as well on wood, leather, and plastic items as it does on rubber. The kit itself contains a strong wooden box, iron, a choice of either "Rec. Dept." or "Sch. Prop" head, a stand for the iron, wire brush for cleaning the head, and a bristle brush to use on branded item, and complete instructions. The branding operation is simple and safe, producing a lasting, legible identification. W. J. Voit Rubber Corporation, 2945 East Twelfth Street, Los Angeles, California.

◆ Your playground will be jumping when the children climb aboard the Jumping Jacks and bounce away. The Wise Engineering Company designed this sturdily constructed, stationary version of the pogo stick, with the child's safety in mind; full extent of vertical travel is four inches. The user can bounce vigorously up and down or twirl around the pole as



he wishes. The unit, suitable for teen-agers or younger children, is attractively painted in bright colors and requires no maintenance, except an occasional oiling. Wise Engineering Company, Newark, New Jersey.



◆ The Nissen Toy Company, a subsidiary of Nissen Trampoline, has developed an adjustable jump rope. Length is taken in or out by turning the polyethylene handles at either end of the rope without cutting or damaging it, yet at the same time allowing swivel action. The rope is available in 9' and 16' lengths, either nylon covered or in plain sash cord of #10 or #12 weight. Handles are nonbreakable and colorfast. Nissen Toy Company, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

◆ Hard surfaces in recreation areas and playgrounds are always a source of accident worries. Safety Surf is a shock-absorbent protective rubber covering for use under playground apparatus or other types of gym and athletic equipment, designed to protect even the most reckless from serious injuries resulting from falls. Safety Surf is assembled from four basic, interchangeable, interlocking rubber blocks, one inch thick, covering an area in modules of two feet in any direction. No cement or mastic is required, and there is no special maintenance expense. Write M. M. Levitt, Mitchell Rubber Products, Inc., Sports and Recreation Division, 2114 San Fernando Road, Los Angeles 65.

◆ A properly wild-looking playground rocking horse accommodates about seven happy children. There are footrests along the sides of this brightly painted sturdy metal horse and small backrests spaced out the length of his back



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Recreation Director for teen-age recreation center, male, with degree or experience in recreation, physical education, or youth work. Start \$400 per month. Write: Leslie A. Harvey, Director, West Side County & City Parks, Recreation & Parkways District, 300 Main St., Taft, California.

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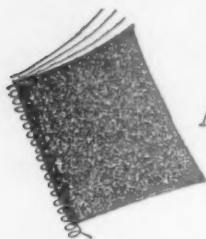
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A REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Far-reaching Decision Against Encroachment

The Court of Chancery on January 10 permanently banned the sale of 6.35 acres of North Brandywine Park in Wilmington, Delaware, to the Wilmington Board of Education for use as a school site.

This decision was the culmination of a hard-fought, two-year battle between the board of park commissioners and the mayor and the council. Maurice duPont Lee, president of the board, vigorously opposed encroachment on park lands by *anybody* and reiterated the park board's stand: namely, the board is merely a trustee for the park land and, as such, has no authority to sell or give it to anyone. Mr. Lee said, "We ought not to give away one inch of park land, considering the rate at which the city is growing." He stated this in view of the fact that Wilmington has less than half the park acreage recommended by the National Recreation Association. (See Mr. Lee's letter regarding the replacement of trees in Wilmington, in "Letters," page 103.)

In his ruling, vice-chancellor William Marvel said: "... It has been generally held that the use of park land for school purposes is a diversion in violation of the dedication or uses permissible by law for such lands." The ruling is a real victory for recreation, and the fight must continue against encroachment, whether by highway, city councils, school boards, housing developments, industrial concerns, *ad infinitum*, or the country will become a vast wasteland of dreary built-up areas, and there will be no land for recreation or for beauty.

Retires After Long Service

Thirty years of varied and faithful service to the field of recreation ended

on February 28, when Mrs. Jessie Garrison Mehling retired as state supervisor of health and physical education in Alabama. Hers is the distinction of being the first woman so appointed.

She has been a vigorous proponent of more and better teaching of health, physical education, and recreation, for all children in Alabama. To ensure proper leadership in the recreation field, on a state-wide basis, Mrs. Mehling worked in close cooperation with institutions of higher learning, preparing teachers and other community leaders for all phases of this work. She regularly took advantage of the services of the NRA, calling upon Association training specialists to conduct courses throughout the state, and devoted a great deal of time to the preparation of study courses, planning of state-wide instruction schools, and the conducting of workshops.

Science Fair

Science and recreation have come together with a bang to produce the Douglas County Science Fair in Lawrence, Kansas. The sixth fair, which took place March 29-30, is an annual event for children in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The fair was organized by Wayne Bly, superintendent of recreation in Lawrence, with the assistance of the local schools, newspaper, and radio station. It is held in affiliation with the National Science Fair, in cooperation with the Science Clubs of America, and is cosponsored by three local chemical companies and the Lawrence Recreation Commission, which is the only recreation commission in the country now sponsoring a science fair.

"A science fair is a collection of exhibits, each of which is designed to show a scientific principle, a laboratory

procedure, or an industrial development," according to a science fair announcement. "It is an exhibition of exhibits or projects, developed or constructed, and displayed by students under the direction of teachers or other interested persons."

The reasons for holding such a fair are:

- To encourage students to take an active part in science and mathematics.
- To afford opportunities for students and teachers to exchange ideas about science.
- To arouse public interest in the abilities of students and teachers.
- To provide science education for the area.
- To provide wholesome recreation for those who enjoy science.

In a tense era, when our country needs trained minds, an affair of this sort is a fine program activity for any recreation department. Further details on how, who, when, where, what, and rules may be obtained from Mr. Bly.

Play Space in Housing Projects

Two key problems related to recreation in housing projects were emphasized at a recent all-day conference in New York City, sponsored by the United Housing Foundation, Play Schools Association, and the NYC Department of Health. The conference considered facilities and activities for the 28,000 New York families now living in low-cost, middle-income cooperatives in the NYC area. Dwellings for 20,000 more families are planned for the next five years. City and state authorities, prominent architects, and real estate people participated in lively discussions and were quick to recognize the two things which recreation authorities have been aware of since the outset of the national public housing program: the need for play space, and the need for such space to be allocated *before building is started*.*

J. Clarence Davies, Jr., chairman of the board of directors of Citizens' Housing and Planning Council, emphasized that recreation facilities in housing are a *must*. The acceptance of the basic principle that recreation and

*See "Shelter and Recreation," RECREATION, January, 1956, p. 30.

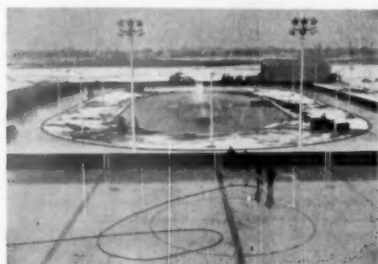
meeting rooms together with adequate outdoor space should be included in all new cooperative housing developments from the beginning, was approved by all, as was the fact that in order to make this effective, the agencies contributing financial aid (city, state, and federal) must require that all builders make provision for such facilities. Significantly, the city's 213 cooperatives suffer most from lack of initial planning; and a committee was formed to investigate the most direct ways of meeting the tremendous need for more space.

Unique Ice Skating Rink

The first artificial ice arena in the world claimed to be designed specifically for amateur competitive speed skating was dedicated in January by the Detroit Department of Parks and Recreation. The layout, located at Farwell Field, incorporates an oval racing track, hockey rink, general skating area, loudspeaker system, night lights, and an artificial lake with fountain sprays—all within an over-all 400-foot by 190-foot area, as compared with the average 85-foot by 185-foot. The lake disperses the heat in the ice.

Adjoining the rink is a temporary building that includes a warming area for skaters, refectory, office checking facilities, and toilets. The warming shelter consists of two prefabricated steel buildings, each 32 feet by 60 feet, joined by a 20-foot passage. The one-eighth-mile speed track has a minimum 22-foot width, widening to 64 feet on the turns. Removing the gates of the hockey pen enlarges the area to a one-sixth mile track.

Laid out on a uniform surface, the



frozen area is a combination of the 190-foot by 180-foot hockey pen and the competitive track. Both areas are used for general skating. Portable bleachers will be set up for spectators

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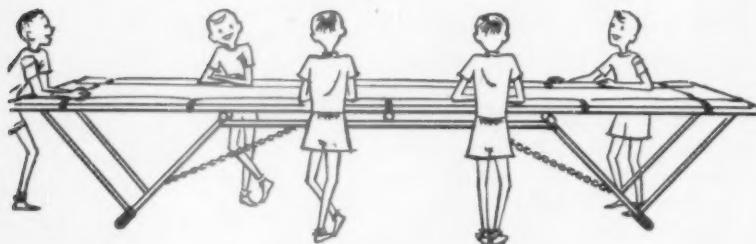
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at competitive meets. William E. Bachman, parks development co-ordinator, who conceived and engineered the Farwell rink building, planned a brick building to house the machine room containing 100hp compressors using 15,000 gallons of brine to create the ice.

"This is the ninth artificial ice rink constructed by this department since 1953," says John J. Considine, general superintendent of the department. This oval track assures Detroit of a cracker-jack, championship skating surface for all competitive meets. There is a charge of ten cents for children and twenty-five for adults.

Assumes New Post

The very first superintendent of recreation in Gorham, New Hampshire, Harry Coulter, took over his new post last July. The town (population 2,857) has thrown itself wholeheartedly into its new recreation program—Gorham's citizens have built a swimming pool and picnic area, passed an article at a town meeting creating a department of recreation and appropriating funds to employ a year-round director.

While the recreation building is being remodeled, the program is conducted wherever "the carpenters aren't," and in the schools.

Program Sources

Do you need reference sources for games, songs, stories, plays, pageants, and so on, based on customs around the world, or for the building of international good will? The American Association for the United Nations, 345 East 46th Street, New York City 17, has just issued a *Resource Handbook*.^{*} A copy at hand will save you time in looking up library references when you're planning that international week for the playgrounds, or other programs with an around-the-world theme.

Cooperative Recreation

The recreation program in Greeley, Colorado, now in its twelfth year, represents the cooperative efforts of the city, the board of education, and the Colorado State College of Education, which share in the expense and operation of the program, administered by

^{*} Priced at fifty cents.

the Greeley Community Activities Commission. An adult division provides necessary instruction and equipment in painting, ceramics, metalwork, and other activities. Instruction in ball-room dancing, square dancing, and music is also available. There are also extensive athletic programs and events for all ages. The commission maintains an auditorium and youth center.

Community Education Head

Francis J. Brennan has been named director of the New York City Board of Education's Bureau of Community Education. He succeeds Mark A. McCloskey, now chairman of the New York State Youth Commission. Mr. Brennan has been the bureau's assistant director since 1940.

Reprints Still Available

Five hundred copies of "Study for the Development of a Neighborhood Playground" can still be ordered from the Association, at \$.15 each. Write Order Department, NRA, 8 West Eighth Street, New York City 11. Many people have found this article very helpful.

New President

The head of recreation curricula at the University of California, Los Angeles, Dr. Norman P. Miller, has been made president of the Federation of National Professional Organizations for Recreation, a co-ordinating body.

In Memoriam

- Widely known and loved Mary Slaughter, of Kingsport, Tennessee, who served for ten years as popular hostess in the Civic Auditorium there died in November. An editorial in the *Kingsport News* referred to her "ability to see into the heart of a fellow human and find his worth." Mrs. Slaughter was greatly interested in art and gave encouragement to young artists, among them the young Tennessee sculptor, Edgar Bowlin. She will be missed.
- On December 16, 1957 a good friend of the National Recreation Association, Colonel Harold R. Smith of the Salvation Army, died at his home in Kearny, New Jersey. He was sixty-three. His was a familiar face at National Recreation Congresses and at NRA head-

quarters. We will all miss him.

- Andy Montgomery, a sponsor of the Association from Austin, Texas, died recently. He served from 1951 to 1958. NRA has lost a devoted leader and a good friend.

Explorer of Mist

*Lone little boy on a playground swing,
Scouting the edge of the sky,
What do you see from your soaring
wing?*

What do you dream and why?

*Never a smile and never a word—
To the top of the world you go;
Explorer of mist, as a mythical bird,
What do you see or know?*

*Over the mountain and over the plain,
Skimming as light you race;
Are you a saucered satellite-brain
Spinning off through space?*

*It's a long, long ride in a playground
swing*

*To the beaches of the moon;
Do spacemen fold each silver wing,
Then scurry home at noon?*


—CULLEN JONES

Reprinted with permission of the author and *National Parent-Teacher*, April, 1957.

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May the turbulence of our age yield to a true time of peace, when men and nations shall share a life that honors the dignity of each, the brotherhood of all.—President Eisenhower, in his second Inaugural Address.

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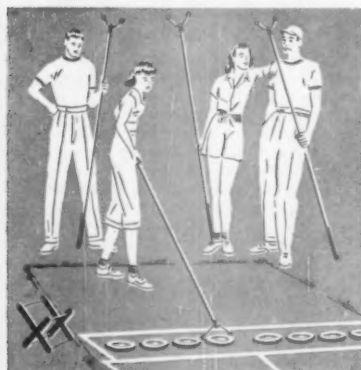


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Books & Pamphlets Received

ABC OF DRIFTWOOD FOR FLOWER ARRANGERS, Florence M. Schaffer. Hearthside Press, 118 E. 28th St., New York 16. Pp. 128. \$3.95.

AGED IN AMERICAN SOCIETY, THE, Joseph T. Drake. Ronald Press, 15 E. 26th St., New York 10. Pp. 431. \$5.50.

ALL CHILDREN HAVE GIFTS, Anne S. Hopcock. Association for Childhood Education International, 1200-15th St., N.W., Washington 5. Pp. 32. \$7.5.

BETTER REPORT WRITING, Willis H. Waldo. Reinhold Publishing Corp., 430 Park Ave., New York 22. Pp. 231. \$4.75.

BOOK OF INDIAN LIFE CRAFTS, Oscar E. Norbeck. Association Press, 291 Broadway, New York 7. Pp. 253. \$5.95.

BOOK OF THE EARTH, THE, A. C. Spectorsky, Editor. Appleton-Century-Crofts, 35 W. 32nd St., New York 1. Pp. 488. \$12.50.

DAYS OF DISCOVERY (Program Aid Packets): 1. October-November; 2. December-January; 3. February-May; 4. June-September. American Friends Service Committee, 20 S. 12th St., Philadelphia 7. \$2.25 each set.

EASY-TO-MAKE OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT, Reginald R. Hawkins. Macmillan Co., 60 5th Ave., New York 11. Pp. 99. \$2.95.

GROUP WORK PAPERS—1957. National Association of Social Workers, 95 Madison Ave., New York 16. Pp. 82. Paper \$1.75.

HOT ROD IT—AND RUN FOR FUN! Fred Horsley. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N. J. Pp. 264. \$3.95.

KNOW THE GAME SERIES: ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL, THE LAWS OF (SOCCER); ATHLETICS; BADMINTON; FENCING; GOLF; SIMPLE GYMNASTICS; LAWN TENNIS; RACING; RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL; SHOW JUMPING; SKIING; SWIMMING; TABLE TENNIS. Sportshelf, P.O. Box 116, 10 Overlook Ter., New York 33. Paper \$7.5 each.

LET'S PLAY A STORY, Elizabeth Allstrom. Friendship Press, 257 4th Ave., New York 10. Pp. 165. Paper \$1.95; cloth \$2.95.

LET'S TAKE A RIDE (CHILDREN'S ATTRACTIONS NEAR NEW YORK CITY). Young's Research Service, P. O. Box 72, Gracie Station, New York 28. Pp. 48. Paper \$1.00.

LINCOLN'S DEVOTIONAL. Channel Press, 159 Northern Blvd., Great Neck, N. Y. Pp. 192. \$2.75.

MENTAL HEALTH HANDBOOK, A, Ian Sketow. Williams & Wilkins, Mt. Royal and Guilford Aves., Baltimore 2, Pp. 196. \$5.50.

METROPOLIS IN FERMENT. American Academy of Political & Social Science, 3937 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 4. Pp. 231. Paper \$2.00; cloth \$3.00.

MOSAICS: HOBBY AND ART, Edwin Hendrickson. Hill and Wang, 104 5th Ave., New York 11. Pp. 111. \$3.50.

MY HOPPY TAWPY SAFETY RHYMES. Hoppy Taw Corp., 927 S. State St., Salt Lake City, Utah. Pp. 33. \$1.50.

MORE NEW GAMES FOR TWEEN-AGERS, Allen A. Macfarlan. Association Press, 291 Broadway, New York 7. Pp. 237. \$3.50.

TEEN-AGE GANGS, Dale Kramer and Madeline Karr. Popular Library, 10 E. 40th St., New York 16. Pp. 176. \$2.5.

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THROUGH THE YEAR WITH CRAFTS, Opal Beebe Allen and Naomi Morris Ready. Bruce Publishing, Milwaukee 1. Pp. 120. Paper \$2.50.

TREES AND THEIR WORLD, Carroll Lane Fenton and Dorothy Constance Pallas. John Day, 210 Madison Avenue, New York 16. Pp. 96. \$3.25.

TREES OF THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL UNITED STATES AND CANADA, William M. Harlow. Dover Publications, 920 Broadway, New York 10. Pp. 288. Paper \$1.35.

UNIFORM PLEASURE BOATING ACT—1957. Outboard Boating Club of America, 307 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 1. Pp. 13. Free.

VOLLEYBALL GUIDE (July 1957-July 1959), Evelyn Prescott, Editor. American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 16. Pp. 112. Paper \$75.

WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW WHEN A BOY OR GIRL WANTS A GUN. Sportsmen's Service Bureau, 250 East 43rd Street, New York 17. Pp. 8. Free.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT "JUNK." Channing L. Bete Company, Box 506, Greenfield, Massachusetts. Pp. 16. \$15.

WHAT WE WANT OF OUR SCHOOLS, Irving Adler. John Day, 62 West 45th Street, New York 36. Pp. 256. \$3.75.

WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN, Earl Schenck Miers. National Society For Crippled Children & Adults, 11 South LaSalle Street, Chicago 3. Pp. 28. \$25.

WINTER SPORTS & OUTING ACTIVITIES GUIDE (July 1957-1959), Jan Gund, Editor. American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6. Pp. 128. Paper \$75.

WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE SEA, THE, James Fisher. Garden City Books, Garden City, New York. Pp. 68. \$2.95.

WORSHIP FOR THE YOUNG IN SPIRIT. (Second Series), Paul N. Elbin. Bethany Press, St. Louis, Missouri. Pp. 144. \$2.50.

YEARBOOK OF AMERICAN CHURCHES FOR 1958, Benson Y. Landis, Editor. National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 297 4th Ave., New York 10. Pp. 322. \$5.00.

Magazine Articles

THE AMERICAN CITY, January 1958
Put Your Recreation Plan to Work, Joseph P. Grossell.

THE CRIPPLED CHILD, December 1957
Recreation Is an All-Time Thing, Charles P. Cranford.

NEA JOURNAL, February 1958
Science, Robert H. Carleton.
Science and the Humanities, R. G. Gustavson.

Helping Youth to Safety, Dorothy McClure Fraser.

Learning To Listen—Listening To Learn, Dora V. Smith.

WOMAN'S DAY, February 1958
No Is a Two-Letter Word, Robert Paul Smith.

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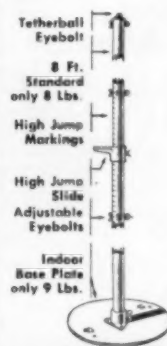
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Hospital Capsules

✦ One of the highlights of the Third Annual Institute on Recreation for the Ill and Handicapped, sponsored by the New York University School of Education and the National Recreation Association, was the session on "Recreation for the Convalescent Mentally Ill Outpatient." It is becoming apparent to many psychiatrists across the nation that it is necessary to teach patients who have been emotionally ill how to use their free time in a leisurely rather than compulsive manner. Many psychiatric hospitals are extending their services for the patient into the community, providing help with vocational and financial problems and living arrangements. Psychiatric hospitals are offering their patients recreation planning and counseling in the predischARGE period, as a new community service. Some hospitals are even providing recreation staff in the community itself for helping outpatients work out their recreation problems. Two pioneers in this type of program are Marie Sante, chief of recreation at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, and John Beard, executive director of The Fountain House in New York City.

✦ The Fourth Institute in Hospital Recreation to be held at the University of Minnesota May 26-28 will include the following program:

- Design for Research in the Hospital Recreation Program.
- Program Evaluation in the Light of Patient Needs.
- Staff Development and Self-Improvement.
- Audio-Visual Aids and Other Media for Interpretation of the Hospital Recreation Program.
- Recreation Needs and Activities for the Aged, Long-Term, and Other Specific Types of Patients.

Application should be in very early.

✦ An interesting article appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, December 29, 1957, by Mike Gorman, executive director of the National Committee Against Mental Illness. The article, "Open Hospitals for the Mentally

Ill," discusses some of the latest trends in planning for the psychiatric patient. If you are not familiar with the "day hospital," and the "night hospital," this article describes them clearly. Mr. Gorman has also edited a recent report you should have. It is called *Has Intensive Therapy Paid Off?* and is available free from The National Mental Health Committee, 1129 Vermont Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

✦ The first part of the *National Study on Recreation in the Medical Setting* is nearing completion. The section on administration is complete and will be available sometime this spring. The second section on personnel is in preparation and will be available in the fall. On behalf of the staff and the advisory committee for the study, we would like to thank each and everyone of you who has participated by furnishing us with information. The results are striking and will have great bearing on the future of recreation for the ill and handicapped.

✦ Are you doing a research project in your hospital? We are interested as we are frequently asked about such projects concerning recreation and are attempting to maintain a file in our office. Two brought to our attention in the last month are "The Use of Nursing Stations in Psychiatric Units of General Hospitals," in the *Journal of the American Hospital Association*, October 16, 1957, which suggests that recreation personnel use nursing stations for staff interchanges, recording, and discussions concerning patient care, and *A Patient's Eye View of Hospital Operation*, a study of patients being discharged from the Veterans Administration Hospital, New York City. Some of the findings indicate that patients want more afternoon recreation programs, more recreation for nonambulatory patients, and more frequent library-cart visits.

If there is a study in progress in your hospital, let us know about it!—Beatrice H. Hill, Director, NRA Consulting Service on Recreation for the Ill and Handicapped.

ART DESIGNS

Oriental Art Motifs, Takahashi Sohei, Editor. Charles E. Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vermont. Pp. 79. \$2.50.

This moderately priced collection of fascinating miniature sketches compiled by artists and scholars of China and Japan, speaks for itself, with no text save a brief introduction. Artists, crafts people, and connoisseurs of Oriental art will want to own it, use it for sketches, designs, or just enjoyment of these charming presentations of people, animals, objects, pagodas, temples, and landscapes. Often only a few brush strokes produce something really enchanting.

Handbook of Ornament, Franz Sales Meyer. Dover Publications, 920 Broadway, New York City 10. Pp. 548. Paper \$2.00.

This is a reprint of a classic on pattern and design published seventy years ago. It contains "over three thousand detailed line cuts—the largest collection ever compiled," according to the publisher. Over three hundred plates are accompanied by explanatory text and cover ornamentation from Greek times. This should be invaluable to artists, students, crafts people, and should have a place on their working shelves.

Tender Warriors

Dorothy Sterling with Donald Gross. Hill and Wang, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City 11. Pp. 96. \$2.50.

A factual recapitulation, by means of interviews and photographs, of incidents that have happened as a result of the Supreme Court decision on integration in the schools. The school children of the South, Negro and white, are the "tender warriors" of this book—which tells the story of how they, their parents, and teachers have been affected. It gives both the "ups" and "downs," and the problems in between. The children, of course, reflect the opinions of their parents; but it is from the young that a change in the thinking of the people must come—if it comes at all.

Mrs. Sterling is the author of twelve books for young people, while Mr. Gross is a free-lance writer specializing in the civil rights field. The book has revealing photographs by Myron Ehrenberg taken during a recent tour of the South.

Games for Junior and Senior High Schools*

Hazel A. Richardson. Burgess Publishing Company, 426 South Sixth

* Available from NRA Recreation Book Center, Eight West Eighth Street, New York City 11.



PUBLICATIONS

Covering the Leisure-time Field

Street, Minneapolis 15. On 171 Cards. \$2.75.

Readers may be familiar with Miss Richardson's previous collection, *Games for the Elementary School Grades*. This new collection is again in card file format, alphabetized and organized by classification, such as "basketball," or "running," and so on.

The set includes 171 games, each complete on one card, plus a classified index. The games are primarily active ones, representing various types of skills. Games with safety hazards and ones requiring very specialized equipment are omitted.

Such card sets of games should be on file in a recreation office and located where playground and indoor center leaders can consult them. They should prove of great value in adding variety to playground and gymnasium programs.

Storytelling for You

Ruby Ethel Cundiff and Barbara Webb. Antioch Press, Yellow Springs, Ohio. Pp. 103. Paper \$1.00, cloth \$2.00.

An excellent, inexpensive addition for your collection of books on storytelling. (Of course, you have *For the Storyteller*, and *Storytelling - Why - Where - When - How*, both NRA publications. This new publication supplements them very nicely.) The chapter on how to tell stories is well worked out and contains important suggestions that should be especially helpful to the playground or camp leader. It and a selection of four tales for telling were prepared by Miss Webb. Incidentally, one of these tales is an original ghost story, very dramatic in a nice, wholesome sort of way.

Miss Cundiff has contributed a very wise chapter on the importance of storytelling and a very carefully selected and annotated bibliography.

Lady from Savannah The Life of Juliette Low

Gladys Denny Shultz and Daisy Gordon Lawrence. J. B. Lippincott Company, 521 Fifth Avenue, New York City 17. Pp. 383. \$4.95.

Unpredictable, witty, charming, compassionate, Juliette Low was the founder of one of our nation's greatest leisure-time organizations: the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Her life reminds us that it is not by methods or routines or organizational structure alone that the world advances.

Surviving the desperate days of reconstruction in Savannah, Daisy, as she was always known, was a belle, a fashionable hostess in London, a loyal American who rushed home to work in military hospitals during the Spanish-American War, a devoted wife whose marriage ended tragically. Yet her sense of humor and her belief in people never failed.

She founded the Girl Scouts when more than two-thirds of her own life had already passed. She brought to her effort the enthusiasm of the girls themselves—and today who can be unaware of the millions of eager youngsters who follow the trail of adventure and service she so glowingly described to the first little group in Savannah?

This is not the story of an organization but of a fascinating woman who managed, out of a bewildering combination of orthodoxy and unorthodoxy, to build and sustain a national movement for "education through recreation."—ANNE L. NEW, *NRA Department of Public Information and Education*.

Indian Beadwork

Robert Hofsinde. William Morrow & Company, 425 Fourth Avenue, New York 16. Pp. 128. \$2.50.

This very interesting beadwork craft comes along just in time to be used with "Indian" groups on playgrounds and in summer camps (See "The Indians are Day Camping," on page 126.—Ed.) It should appeal to boys and girls, as well as to adults. The material is presented in story form with beautiful illustrations, against an authentic Indian background. Fourteen well-chosen projects are given, along with brief historical facts about beadwork as the Indians practiced it.

A simplified method for making the bead loom will inspire confidence from

the start. With a little patience and concentration, the well-planned instructions for making the objects and for weaving the beads can be followed. There are many helpful diagrams, working drawings, and lists of necessary materials. For application on the objects to be made, Indian designs are given, as well as suggestions for creating original designs. Projects include belts, necklaces, bracelets, headbands, purses, bags, knife sheaths, and two types of moccasins—the Northern Plains and the Woodland.

The author is well known for his understanding and portrayal of Indian life. He writes and illustrates with enthusiasm and resourcefulness! Mr. Hofsinde is also the author of *The Indian's Secret World*, *Indian Sign Language*, and *Indian Games and Crafts*. All these books are highly recommended for recreation and camp leaders.—SHIRLEY SILBERT, member, Arts and Crafts Committee of the National Advisory Committee on Recreation Programs and Activities.

Station Wagon Living

Bill Moss. Simon & Schuster, Inc., 630 Fifth Avenue, New York 20. Pp. 252. \$2.95.

Among camping and travel publications, this gay little book is not only outstanding, but "different." It is fun to read, whether you are going anywhere or not, and its profuse sketches and other illustrations in color and black-and-white, will make you want to pack your kit and take off for one of the campgrounds listed.

FOR NATURE LOVERS

Three books, excellent for summertime hammock or out-of-door reading.

The Book of The Earth, A. C. Spector-sky, Editor. Appleton-Century-Crofts, 35 West 32nd Street, New York 1. Pp. 488. \$12.50.

This is an unusually beautiful publication, an addition to the publisher's "DeLuxe Series," which was especially published for the International Geophysical Year. Its appeal is to lovers of literature and of art as well as of the earth, for it is a collection of the writings of many of our prominent authors about the adventures of the human race on our planet. Illustrations include striking photographs, reproductions of old steel engravings, and line drawings. The book goes a long way toward fulfilling the publisher's announcement of it as "the gift book of the year."

The River of Life, Rutherford Platt.

Simon and Schuster, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York 20. Pp. 309. \$5.00.

Although this book came out a year ago and we have not had a chance to review it until now, it should not be overlooked. It is another beautiful book, telling, this time, a leisurely story of earth's living things; even examining the first microscopic cell, "electric" animals such as the firefly, the sparkle in the sea water; often emphasizing the bizarre, fanciful, or philosophical. Its setting is the whole world: ocean, land, air, and space. It should be owned and savored by all lovers of nature's mysteries.

Nature and the American, Hans Huth. University of California Press, Berkeley 4. Pp. 250. \$7.50.

The American attitude toward nature has changed with the centuries, and today it is necessary for the public to leap to the defense of the conservation of our few remaining natural wilderness areas and open spaces. This book gives the story of developments that finally led to the conservation movement in this country, tracing the contribution that the authors of this nation have made to its interpretation and promotion. One whole chapter is devoted to "Play and Rest" and discusses gardens, travel, parks, but not recreation as such. Others cover timberlands, nature, "summer migration." Photographs are excellent. This offers good reading for those who enjoy the historical facts which have led to the present or who are especially interested in the conservation of the vanishing open frontier.

Book of Indian Life Crafts

Oscar E. Norbeck. Association Press, 291 Broadway, New York 7. Pp. 253. \$5.95.

Any scout or camp leader interested in outdoor activities with nature themes, based on authentic Indian culture, will find this book a gold mine of ideas. It covers costumes, games, ceremonies, and fire building. However, so do many other books on Indians, but this one goes much farther. It has chapters on Indian transportation, foods and cooking, dwellings, communications (smoke signals, fire signals, totem poles, trail signals, and others), hunting equipment, plus a listing of Indian names for boys and girls, a calendar of Indian events, the principal Indian tribes, and sources of supplies. Bibliographies and an index add to its usefulness. It is a good companion volume to *Indian Beadwork*, by Robert Hofsinde, reviewed by Shirley Silbert, also in this issue.

Gold Medal Plays for Holidays

Helen Louise Miller. Plays, Inc., 8 Arlington Street, Boston 16. Pp. 432. \$4.75.

This author won the 1956 and 1957 George Washington Gold Medal for playwriting awarded by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Her collection of thirty one-act, royalty-free plays is for youngsters in the middle and lower grades. They are simple as far as production is concerned, and the dialogue is natural.

The book includes plays for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays, Valentine's Day, Flag Day, Mother's Day, Easter, and Book Week. It also contains one play for such dates as American Education Week, Veterans' Day, Election Day, and Memorial Day.

The Edge of April

Biography of John Burroughs. Hildgarde Hoyt Swift. William Morrow & Company, 425 Fourth Avenue, New York 16. Pp. 316. \$3.95.

This story of John Burroughs comes at the proper time of year and carries a foreword by his granddaughter, Elizabeth Burroughs. It dramatizes a collection of happy adventures in nature with the companionship of the great man, through the help of his own memories, the recollections of his son, and grandchildren, and friends. Lynd Ward's black-and-white illustrations supplement Mrs. Swift's sensitivity to beauty.

Seaweeds at Ebb Tide

Muriel Lewin Guberlet. University of Washington Press, Seattle 5. Pp. 182. \$3.50.

This book on Pacific Coast seaweeds was published in 1956 but escaped us until now. In case it has escaped all you folks on the West Coast, we'd like to call it to your attention. The illustrations by Elizabeth L. Curtis are delightful. The descriptions and information are fascinating, and we're sure you can develop a new hobby club with it.

How to Have a Show

Barbara Berk and Jeanne Bendick. Franklin Watts, 699 Madison Avenue, New York 21. Pp. 63. \$2.95.

Many of the ideas in this book are credited to the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department, but they've been given a magic touch by a clever writer and a very talented illustrator, Jeanne Bendick. It's a young reader's introduction to stage craft, with imaginative suggestions for staging, costumes, sets, and props for informal dramatic productions and many special events, like carnivals, pet shows, circuses, and the like.—VIRGINIA MUSSELMAN, NRA Program Service.

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Sponsored by the National Recreation Association and Local Recreation Agencies

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Lancaster, Pennsylvania
June 16-17
San Antonio, Texas
June 2-3
Mankato, Minnesota
June 9-10
St. Cloud, Minnesota
June 11-12
Superior, Wisconsin
June 13
Vineland, New Jersey
June 18, 19, 20
Durham, New Hampshire
June 23

Jackson, Mississippi
June 3-4
Toledo, Ohio
June 16-19

Northland Recreation
Laboratory
April 17-24

Danville, Virginia
June 11-13
Toledo, Ohio
June 16-19
Ottisville, New York
June 23-26

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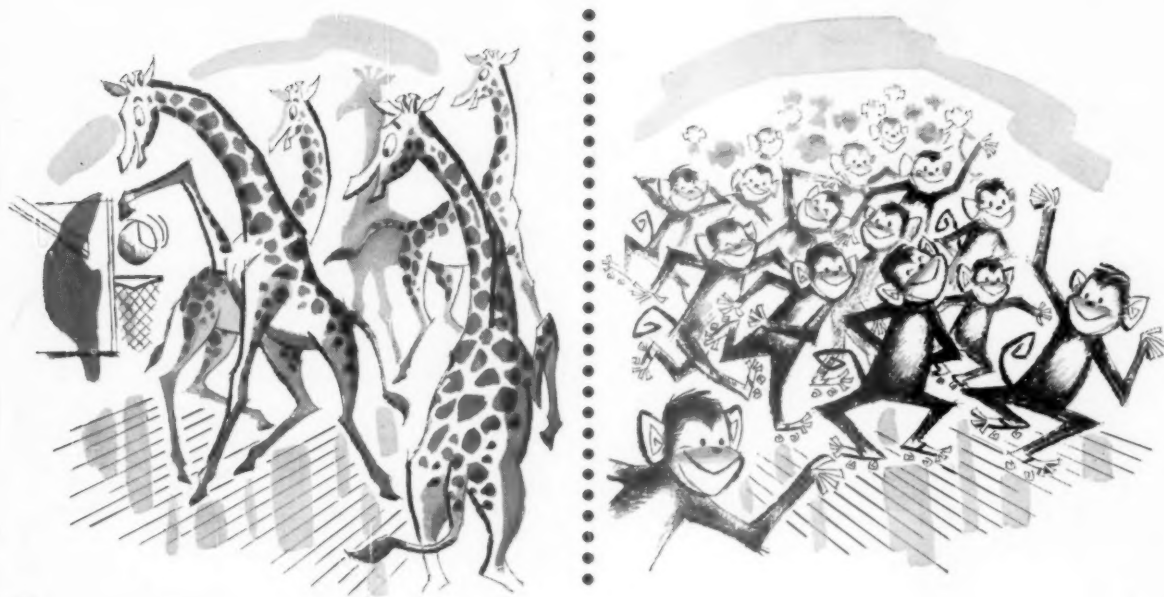
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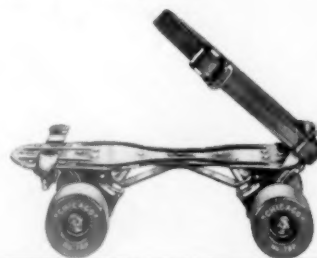
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